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Japan

Official Optimistic About Ending GATT Talks

OW2611114493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The long-stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks may see a deal struck early next month ahead of the December 15 deadline for their conclusion, a Japanese trade ministry official said Friday [26 November].

Depending on whether the United States and the European Community (EC) solve their farm trade dispute at a ministerial meeting in Brussels next Wednesday, there is a possibility the Round may reach a sudden agreement in the week beginning December 6, the official said.

He said there are optimistic views among people who were involved in a two-day meeting ended Tuesday between U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and Sir Leon Brittan, EC external economic relations commissioner.

Developments in the Uruguay Round being held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) could depend on a series of upcoming EC gatherings, the official said.

EC member nations will hold a special meeting of foreign ministers on December 2 to discuss the Uruguay Round, followed by a regular foreign ministers' meeting on December 6 to 7 and a regular EC summit on December 9 to 10.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry source said, "The Round will be reaching its climax next week and the week after next."

Asked what will happen on December 15, the source predicted GATT Director General Peter Sutherland will make a brief statement saying what was agreed among the 115 negotiating nations.

Hata Expresses Hope Regarding GATT Package

OW2611055993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0529 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Agriculture Minister Eijiro Hata expressed hope Friday [26 November] that rice will be excluded from a comprehensive tariffication formula in a new farm trade package being prepared by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Hata said Japan expects the Geneva-based world trade body to come up soon with a new proposal to break an impasse on farm trade under the ongoing Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations.

He said Japan has repeatedly stated its basic position on farm trade, including rice, in light of an agreement among the ruling coalition parties and resolutions passed by the Diet.

A GATT proposal set forth by its former Director Arthur Dunkel called for negotiating parties to replace farm import restrictions with tariffs without exception.

The Japanese Government has pursued a policy of maintaining a ban on rice imports on grounds of food security. Rice is under government control and rice imports are virtually banned.

Hata said a new proposal, revising the Dunkel plan, is expected to be unveiled some time after next week.

Japan has made efforts to have its rice policy reflected in the new proposal and hopes its stand on rice trade is understood by GATT, he said, adding there is no room for Japan to compromise on the issue.

The deadline for conclusion of the world trade negotiations has been set for December 15.

Discusses Rice at News Conference

OW2611124493 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0312 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over video showing a news conference by Eijiro Hata, minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Touching on Japan's position on the Uruguay Round of trade talks, including talks on the rice issue, at a news conference following a cabinet meeting today, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Eijiro Hata indicated the intention to make all-out efforts in negotiations which are entering a final stage so that Japan's position will be reflected in a final agreement.

[Begin Hata recording] The fact is that we are entering a stage wherein we physically have limited time and have to do it for real. [end recording]

In addition, he said: I hope GATT Director-General Sutherland will make a move in consideration of Japan's position. We cannot promise what we cannot carry out—tariffication on rice.

In this way, he indicated his view that the very most Japan can accept is an agreement that ensures Japan does not immediately have to apply a rice tariffication plan.

Agreement on Rice Said Reached With U.S.

OW2611130893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1254 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japan has finally reached agreement with the United States on importing rice at a minimum rate of 4 to 8 percent of domestic consumption in exchange for a six-year moratorium on the tariffication of rice imports, government sources said Friday [26 November].

In the fifth year of partial opening of the heavily protected rice market, Japan will resume negotiations on whether or not to accept tariffication—a scheme proposed in the Uruguay Round of world trade talks to replace all nontariff trade barriers with tariffs—after the moratorium period ends, they said.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the sponsor of the world talks, is expected to deliver a new proposal on farm trade sometime after next week.

The accord reached between Japan and the U.S. will be included in the new proposal, the sources added.

The government will determine the timing of a formal announcement about the accord in connection with developments in farm trade negotiations between the U.S. and the European Community and such domestic issues as the passing of political reform bills through the House of Representatives and negotiations for the fiscal 1994 national budget, the sources said.

However, the announcement will come sometime before December 15, the deadline for concluding the seven-year-old trade talks, they said.

The sources said Japan will avoid inclusion in the new farm trade proposal of a pledge to accept future tariffication.

"However, Japan might have to say it to the trade negotiations committee of GATT," one of the sources added.

The sources said the new farm proposal will state that some farm products on which GATT negotiating countries restrict imports or control production will be excluded from the tariffication formula.

Instead, it will call for an import floor on the excluded products of 4 percent of domestic consumption starting from fiscal 1995, and gradually rising to 8 percent within six years.

In the original proposal by former GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, a minimum access rate of 3 percent was proposed for the initial year, to be raised to 5 percent in the sixth year.

According to the sources, only a few products will fall under the excepted category, and Japan's rice is one of them.

Japan also controls imports of some 20 other farm products such as milk products, starch and wheat, but will accept tariffication for those products, they said.

The system of government importing of farm products will be maintained even though tariffication is accepted, they added.

If the new proposal is approved, Japan's rice import would amount to 400,000 tons in the first year and 800,000 tons in the sixth year.

The government is expected to submit a list of product-by-product tariff reduction plans to GATT in near future, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry has begun work on revising the nation's Staple Food Control Act in preparation for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round in December, sources at the ministry said.

The revision is expected to face tough going because the Social Democratic Party, the largest group among the ruling coalition partners, is against rice market liberalization.

The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives adopted a special resolution on Friday stating that it will push both the government and the Diet to refuse tariffication for rice.

"If tariffication is applied to rice, the members of the cooperatives will not support the Diet members in the next election," the organization said.

Government Collection of Rice Crop 'Slow'

OW2411100693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO—Rice produced in Japan will account for only 40 to 50 percent of government-controlled supplies after next March, government sources said Wednesday [24 November]. This is because the government's collection of 1993's crop remains slow and may fall short of four million tons.

In addition, the government plans to supply only Japanese rice for table use until next February. Mass rice imports are planned to deal with the shortage.

Even including rice marketed outside government channels by farmers' groups and dealers, Japanese-produced rice will account for only 60 percent of the national rice supply after next March.

Under the food control law, the government controls the production and distribution of rice, but about 40 percent of the total supply is freely marketed outside government channels.

The sources attributed the slow pace of rice collection to farmers holding back rice in anticipation of a further rise in prices because of a shortage anticipated from a poor harvest, despite strenuous efforts being made by the food agency.

They said the collection of the 1993 crop is likely to total 3.5 million to four million tons. About 600,000 tons of that is expected to be used in the production of sake and processed food.

The government, in addition, had about 200,000 tons of table-use rice in stock as of the end of October. It plans to supply 1.7 million tons for table use in the current November to February period.

The total supply of Japanese-produced rice for the next March to October period will fall below two million tons, compared with an estimated national requirement of 3.6 million tons.

Envoys Told of Need for 'Open' APEC Community

OW2411102893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Japanese ambassadors to European nations held a meeting today [24 November] at the Foreign Ministry. Speaking at the meeting, Foreign Minister Hata indicated the need to further develop the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] conference into an open community in line with the results of the recent APEC ministerial talks. At the meeting, Mr. Hata went on to say: As for the APEC conference held in Seattle, leaders of Asian and Pacific nations met in the United States, and that marked a historic event. In the course of discussions on developing APEC into the type of community sought by the United States, Japan's proposals were accepted and an agreement was reached among all participating nations on the creation of a moderate community.

At the meeting, Foreign Minister Hata said Japan wants to develop APEC not into a trade negotiating forum, but into a dialogue forum in order for European and other nations not to criticize APEC for creating a fence in the Asia-Pacific region. In this way, Mr. Hata stressed the need to turn APEC into an open community in the future.

Mongolian Prime Minister Jasray Continues Visit

Seeks Help for APEC Membership

OW2511112893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 2304 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report over video from the NHK "Morning Wide News" program on interview with Mongolian Prime Minister Puntsangiyn Jasray by unidentified NHK reporter in Tokyo; date not given—recorded, in Mongolian with Japanese subtitles; translated from the Japanese]

[Text] Visiting Mongolian Prime Minister Puntsangiyn Jasray, during an interview with NHK, disclosed that the Mongolian Government intends to seek membership of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

[Begin Jasray recording] APEC must develop itself as the base for economic cooperation among nations within the framework of the Asia-Pacific region, and Mongolia as a nation in this region wants to become an APEC member and participate in this regional cooperation. [end recording]

With regard to cooperative relations with Japan, Prime Minister Jasray stated that assistance from Japan accounts for 30 percent of total foreign assistance. He expressed his appreciation and stated that Japan's aid has contributed to Mongolia's democratization efforts. Moreover, the prime minister stated the following:

[Begin Jasray recording] Mongolia can provide inexpensive, high-quality labor and abundant underground resources, while Japan has high-level scientific and technological capabilities that would enable Mongolia to research and develop these resources. I will appeal to Japanese leaders to bolster cooperation in these fields. [end recording]

Prime Minister Jasray, who is now on the first official visit to Japan by a Mongolian prime minister, is scheduled to hold talks with the Emperor and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. During his stay in Japan, Prime Minister Jasray will conclude an agreement on direct flights between Japan and Mongolia.

Meets With Hosokawa 25 Nov

OW2511133693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1314 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—Mongolian Prime Minister Puntsagiyn Jasray voiced support Thursday [25 November] for Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Foreign Ministry officials said.

During talks with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, Jasray said Mongolia will support Japan's attempt to become a permanent member of the council within the framework of UN reforms, the officials told reporters.

They said Jasray, who began a five-day visit to Japan on Wednesday, said Mongolia appreciates Japan's international contributions, such as its economic assistance.

Under agreements signed earlier in the day, Japan will give up to 3.32 billion yen in loans for the improvement of a railway system in Mongolia, as well as a 2 billion yen grant to help ease structural economic problems.

Jasray was quoted as saying that Japan can contribute to the world in various fields as an economic superpower.

In response Hosokawa said Japan is ready to do what it can to fulfill its responsibilities in the Security Council if pushed to become a permanent member, the officials said.

Also during the hour-long meeting, Jasray said Mongolia wants to join the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in the future because it places importance on relations with Asian nations and urged Japan's support.

Hosokawa told Jasray he will keep in mind Mongolia's desire to join the APEC forum but added that APEC members agreed in Seattle last week to freeze expanding membership for three years, the officials said.

APEC's membership currently stands at 17—the United States, Japan, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Mexico and Papua New Guinea.

Hosokawa praised Mongolia's intention to denuclearize its territory, saying that will contribute to the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the officials said.

On bilateral ties, Jasray said developing long-term and stable relations with Japan is one of Mongolia's top priorities and added it wants to promote high-level political dialogue with Japan.

Hosokawa told Jasray Japan will continue to take the initiative in supporting Mongolia's reform efforts and its bid to become a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), they said.

The two leaders agreed to promote cultural exchanges between the two nations, they said.

Hosokawa said Japan plans to dispatch a survey team to Mongolia to help excavate and preserve ruins of the ancient capital of Karakorum, 32 kilometers southwest of Ulaanbaatar, the officials said.

Jasray, who was appointed prime minister in August 1992, is the first Mongolian premier to visit Japan since the country's democratization and shift toward a market-oriented economy.

Joint Statement on Visit Issued

OW2611090993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japan and Mongolia said in a joint statement Friday [26 November] that political and economic reforms in Mongolia and maintaining close bilateral relations are important for the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.

The statement capped talks Thursday between Prime Ministers Morihiro Hosokawa of Japan and Puntsagiyn Jasray of Mongolia.

In the statement, Jasray said Mongolia will never reverse the reforms and that Japan's long-term friendship and support are important for his country.

Hosokawa welcomed Mongolia's 1992 declaration renouncing nuclear weapons, and expressed satisfaction that the two countries will be able to build new ties based on shared values of freedom and democracy, the statement said.

Jasray entered agreements with Japan on Thursday for 3.32 billion yen in loans to revamp Mongolia's railway system, and a 2 billion yen grant for economic structural adjustments.

Jasray, the first Mongolian prime minister to visit Japan since his country embarked on the democratization process, had an audience with Emperor Akihito on Friday.

The prime minister will visit Nagoya, Osaka and Kyoto before leaving Japan on Sunday.

Moscow Ties, Economy Discussed

OW2611123893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Mongolian Prime Minister Puntsagiyn Jasray on Friday [26 November] expressed hope that his country can maintain positive relations with Moscow following the Russian troop withdrawal in September 1992.

"It will benefit both Mongolia and Russia to live up to the agreement which President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat concluded with President Boris Yeltsin in January this year during his visit to Moscow," Jasray said.

Jasray, now on a five-day official trip to Japan, made the remark at a news conference at the Japan National Press Club in response to a question from a Russian reporter who pressed Jasray to explain what ties his nation wants to maintain with Moscow.

The January 20 accord mandates that both nations refrain from joining military alliances which might undermine their mutual interests following the withdrawal of the Russian forces which reached 100,000 troops at their peak.

Yeltsin also issued a statement in which Russia apologized for the execution or imprisonment of an estimated 100,000 Mongolian intellectuals and other citizens in the Soviet Union during the Stalinist purges.

Following this statement, details were released about the fate of 27 Mongolian officials executed in 1937.

Jasrai told reporters, "Mongolia and Russia are neighbors. Our histories share some parts in common and, at present, we are toiling in parallel to turn our countries into democracies based on market economies."

Mongolia established a communist-led state with Soviet support in 1924 and maintained a pro-Moscow policy until a wave of global democratization in 1989 prompted it to renounce communism.

Jasray, a 1961 graduate of Moscow University's economics department, said that although he once led the nation's Economic Planning Commission on the basis of socialist economic theory, he is now trying to revive a Mongolian economy in disarray.

"I will pour my utmost efforts into helping my country overcome the current economic crisis, rather than being driven by any ideology," he said.

In order to bring about the economic revival, Jasray said, Mongolia will place "priority" on promoting friendly economic relations with Japan in such fields as scientific technology and intellectual and cultural exchanges.

Jasray, appointed premier in August, 1992, by President Ochirbat, is now a driving power behind the nation's efforts for further democratization following its farewell to the Marxist regime.

Earlier in the day, Jasray held talks with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in which the two leaders mutually confirmed earlier pledges to expand friendly ties.

In September, Japan pledged 2 billion yen in grant aid to help Mongolia transform its centrally-planned economy into a market economy, as well as some 3.3 billion yen in loans toward completion of a railway system.

Japan's aid accounts for some 30 percent of all foreign aid the nation receives annually.

Pakistan Urged To Join NPT, Accept Inspection

OW2611123393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japan has urged Pakistan to join the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and take measures to sweep away international suspicion that it is developing nuclear weapons, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday [26 November].

Japan also called on Pakistan during a two-day bilateral meeting to accept International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards obligations to increase transparency of its alleged nuclear development, the officials said.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan [name as received], who headed the Pakistan delegation to the meeting, told Japan that Pakistan has the capability to develop nuclear weapons in a short period but that it does not possess any and has also made a political decision not to possess one, the officials said.

Pakistan is ready to join the NPT and accept IAEA safeguards obligations on the precondition that India does the same thing, the officials quoted Khan as saying.

Khan cited difficulty for Pakistan alone to take such moves, saying that joining the NPT without India is "equal to committing suicide," the officials said. He said that Pakistan has two nuclear facilities not inspected by the IAEA whereas India has 10, according to the officials.

The Japanese delegation, headed by Deputy Vice Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda, pointed out that repeating such discussions is not fruitful and asked either Pakistan or India take spontaneous actions.

Japan also proposed that Japanese and Pakistani experts discuss technical matters concerning nuclear development, the officials said.

Touching on the Kashmir problem between Pakistan and India, the Pakistani delegation told Japan that human rights of Muslims are being violated in Kashmir, the officials said.

Pakistan said a solution to the Kashmir problem will improve relations between Islamabad and New Delhi and will also contribute to the stability of South Asia.

Japan expressed hope that India and Pakistan will solve the problem through rational and direct dialogue and that the two sides will have fruitful talks when they hold foreign ministerial-level talks from January 1 to 3 in Islamabad, the officials said.

Also during the two-day meeting, Pakistan voiced support for bids by Japan and Germany to become permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, saying it is "natural" for the two to become the permanent members, the officials said.

The Pakistan delegation was quoted as saying that although it is not necessary to greatly change the current framework, countries which could contribute to the international community are changing.

Turning to bilateral relations, Pakistan said the government of newly-elected Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wants to strengthen ties with Japan, the officials said.

Spokesman Voices Concern Over Yemen 'Crisis'

OW2611083893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japan voiced concern Friday [26 November] over Yemen's political crisis following a row between that country's two principle leaders.

Differences between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and vice president 'Ali Salim al-Bid over political and economic reforms has brought the worst political crisis in Yemen since its northern and southern halves merged in 1990.

"We are strongly concerned that Yemen people's efforts for nation building will be undermined if they are divided on the issue of the democratization process and national unity," Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada said.

Japan welcomed parliamentary elections held last April as an important step toward democratization and has supported Yemen's endeavors for nation building through various means, including through its development assistance program, he said.

Of some 220 million dollars of assistance Yemen received from foreign countries in 1991, 45.3 percent, or 100 million dollars came from Japan, he said.

Japan hopes "current difficulties in Yemen will be settled peacefully through dialogue with a cooperative spirit among all concerned parties," he said.

Before the south and north were merged, al-Bid ruled South Yemen.

The vice president retreated to Aden in the south in July after a quarrel with the president over the unification process.

Fishing Boat Feared Captured by Russian Patrol

OW2611164093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1522 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Sapporo, Nov. 26 KYODO—A fishing boat with three crew aboard was presumed captured by a Russian patrol boat Friday [26 November] off Cape Nosappu in the easternmost city of Nemuro, Hokkaido, local maritime safety officials said.

Contact was lost Friday afternoon with the 4.9-ton No. 68 Yuki Maru after it reported that a Russian patrol boat had searched it around 3 P.M., they said.

Keiichi Noto, 41, captain, and two crew members, Tomoji Tsuji, 37, and Akira Murakami, 30, all of Nemuro, were on board the squid netting ship.

Maritime safety authorities were seeking information about the search from Russian authorities through diplomatic channels, they added.

Peruvian Official Thanks Hosokawa for Aid

OW2511113193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—The head of the Peruvian legislature thanked Japan on Thursday [25 November] for its economic assistance to Peru and sought Tokyo's further cooperation with Lima, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Jaime Yoshiyama, president of Peru's democratic constituent congress, made the remarks when he called on Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa at his official residence.

During the 20-minute talk, Hosokawa said he pays tribute to Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, the Peruvian parliament and the people of Peru for their efforts toward a democracy, the official said.

Noting that the October 31 referendum on a new Peruvian constitution was a great step toward democracy, the premier reportedly expressed hope that democracy will take root in Peru.

Although the official results of the referendum have yet to be announced, Fujimori has said he won voters' approval of the new charter that would allow him to seek a second term in 1995.

A second-generation Japanese-Peruvian, Yoshiyama served separately as transport and telecommunications minister and energy and mines minister under the 3-year-old Fujimori administration before becoming head of the legislature.

The Peruvian president's ancestors hailed from Kumamoto Prefecture, southwestern Japan, where Hosokawa is elected.

Yoshiyama arrived in Japan on Wednesday at the invitation of House of Representatives speaker Takako Doi. He will stay until December 1.

Hosokawa Urges Upper House To Pass Reforms

OW2611102893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0953 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Friday [26 November] urged members of the House of Councillors to pass a package of four political reform bills by the December 15 deadline.

Speaking at a plenary session, Hosokawa said, "It is necessary for the political reform bills to be enacted to restore the trust of the Japanese people in politics."

The prime minister made the remarks as the upper house launched deliberations on the reform bills Friday, eight days after the bills passed through the more powerful House of Representatives.

He said he will make every effort to achieve consensus between the seven parties of his coalition government and the opposition Liberal Democratic Party.

The bills, centering on the election system for the lower chamber, tighter controls on political donations, and political funding from state coffers, will go into the statute books if the upper house passes them.

Hosokawa, who founded the Japan New Party (JNP) last year and took office in August as the first non-LDP premier in decades, has placed top priority on enacting sweeping political reform legislation this year, hinting he will step down if he fails to do so.

The government bills would set up 274 single-seat districts and provide for 226 seats to be elected through proportional representation, cutting the total membership in the lower house from the present 511 to 500.

Hosokawa said he views the changes in the election system as leading to the development of three to five parties directly involved in the formation of governments.

He went on to say, "proportional representation of 226 seats would allow this system to come true."

Earlier at the same session, Home Affairs Minister Kanju Sato explained the package of bills.

Atsushi Hashimoto of the Japanese Communist Party also explained his party's proposal for reform designed to maintain the current multi-seat system while correcting the disparity in vote values.

On November 18 the bills cleared their first hurdle when the coalition government succeeded in passing them in the 511-member lower house.

The government package emphasizes replacing multi-seat constituencies, seen as the cause of lavish campaign spending by competing candidates of the same party, with a system combining single-seat constituencies and proportional representation.

The government bills would also ban individual politicians from receiving political donations from corporations, while allowing political parties to accept corporate money.

The package sets the amount of public money available for political activities at 30.9 billion yen, a figure proposed by the LDP, down from the coalition's initial proposal of 41.4 billion yen.

Ruling Coalition Decides To Extend Diet Session

OW2611140193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1351 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—The ruling coalition government decided Friday [26 November] to extend the current extraordinary Diet session beyond the December 15 deadline to push political reform bills through the House of Councillors before the year-end, government sources said.

To what extent the 90-day Diet session will be extended has yet to be decided, but it may be extended two weeks if there emerges a prospect of enacting the reform package in the upper house by the end of the year, they said.

The upper chamber belatedly began deliberations on the government's proposed package of four reform bills Friday. The bills cleared the House of Representatives on November 18.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has staked his job on getting political reform bills into law within the year, hinting he would resign if he fails to do so.

The seven parties that make up the coalition government will formally request the extension of the Diet schedule on around December 12, while closely watching how the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) reacts to the move, the sources said.

The coalition government had hoped to convene the upper house session soon after the bills passed the lower house. But the LDP and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) thwarted their efforts, saying a supplementary budget should be discussed first to shore up the sagging economy.

With deliberations on the budget cutting into the schedule to discuss the reform package, the upper house committee on political reform is not expected to enter into full debate on the issue until the second week in December at the earliest.

The committee must first pass the reform package before it can clear the full upper house. The committee usually takes 20 days for deliberation on an important bill, thus worrying those in the coalition government that the bills will not be passed before Hosokawa's self-imposed deadline.

The seven coalition parties hold a simple majority of 131 in the 252-seat upper house against the LDP's 98, the JCP's 11 and 11 independents.

The government bills call for introduction of a dual election system for the lower house, consisting of 274 single-seat constituencies and 226 seats elected through proportional representation. It would replace the current 511 multiseat district system, which is blamed for costly elections in which politicians of the same party must compete against one another.

The LDP opposes the government-proposed reform package and is pushing its own proposals which call for more seats for single-seat constituencies.

The LDP is also reluctant to support a government reform bill that bans individual politicians from receiving political donations from corporations. The government wants donations to be given to political parties instead.

The package provides 30.9 billion yen a year for political parties from state coffers to ease the burden of fund raising.

Survey: Companies Plan Less Capital Spending

OW2611081093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0749 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japanese companies earmarked 18,958.4 billion yen for capital spending during fiscal 1993 started April 1, down 3.5 percent from estimated results of fiscal 1992, according to a government survey released Friday [26 November].

It was the second negative yearly growth in planned capital spending, showing companies' investment confidence further contracting.

The semiannual survey, conducted on October 1 by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, showed companies revised downward their planned capital spending for fiscal 1993 by 0.7 percentage point from that of the previous survey at the end of March.

The survey showed that the manufacturing sector's planned plant and equipment investment for fiscal 1993 is expected to post a double-digit yearly decline, falling 15.1 percent from the previous year's levels after a 22.1 percent year-on-year drop marked in fiscal 1992.

That of the nonmanufacturing sector will rise 4.8 percent, mainly due to a jump in the electric power industry. When excluding the electric power industry, a slight 1.4 percent gain is expected, down 2.6 percentage points from the 4.0 percent increase planned six months earlier.

The survey covered 2,195 companies with capital of 100 million yen or more, of which 1,835 responded.

As to the capital spending plan for fiscal 1994, which starts next April 1, a 0.1 percent yearly dip is expected, though only 1,255 companies replied, the survey said.

The capital spending plan of 935 manufacturers is predicted to drop 10.2 percent from levels planned for fiscal 1993, while that of 320 nonmanufacturers is expected to rise 3.6 percent.

The subcommittee on industry finance under the Industrial Structure Council, an advisory body to the trade minister, attributed the broadly prudent capital spending plan mainly to sluggish final demand, uncertainty over the outlook for capital stock adjustment and deteriorating corporate earnings.

Capital spending would take considerable time to recover with many companies pessimistically expecting their business conditions to revive after the second half of fiscal 1994 at the earliest, the subcommittee said.

Taking all these findings into consideration, the subcommittee called on the government to further promote public works spending and to promptly implement a tax system reform, including an income tax cut, with a view to recovering the ailing economy and revolutionizing economic and social structure.

It warned that activating corporate restructuring has focused on rather negative areas, such as employment adjustment, rationalization and downsizing of unprofitable divisions, with less investment in research and development and new enterprises.

The body urged the government to help promote positive restructuring and creative business activities by smoothly providing funds to new businesses and fostering free and fairly competitive markets through deregulation.

It also called on financial institutions to improve their financing capability by further streamlining management and smoothly disposing of bad debts.

Consumers Divided on Consumption Tax Hike

OW2411122993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO—Consumers at public hearings Wednesday [24 November] were divided over the consumption tax hike as proposed in tandem with an income tax cut by the government's advisory panel.

The Tax Commission, an advisory panel to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, held public hearings at six major cities—Sapporo, Sendai, Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima and Kumamoto.

Kan Kato, chairman of the commission and professor of Tokyo's Keio University, told reporters after attending a hearing in Hiroshima that a consumption tax hike, coupled with an income tax cut, is indispensable to prepare for the progress of Japan's graying society.

The commission, in an interim report submitted to the government last week, called for an income tax reduction ahead of a hike in the 3 percent consumption tax rate.

Isao Okada, an executive of major textile maker Toyobo Co., appealed to the government for the early implementation of an income tax cut, worth about 5 trillion yen, to help stimulate the domestic economy.

His appeal was supported by Takeshi Morikawa, head of the Hiroshima chapter of the powerful Japan Confederation of Labor.

Toshiko Nakamura, a Nagoya housewife, expressed objections to a consumption tax hike, favoring the present tax system dependent on revenues from direct taxes.

Junko Abe, a Kumamoto housewife, called for an end to the tax breaks given to small-scale retailers and urged the government to retain the present 3 percent tax rate for daily necessities.

Most members of the Tax Commission, in separate news conferences, expressed doubt about the impact of the proposed income tax cut on the domestic economy.

Panel Urges Early Income Tax Reduction

OW2511043393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0337 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 KYODO—An advisory panel to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will submit a report calling for the early implementation of income tax reductions, a government source said Thursday [25 November].

A draft of the report, to be submitted in mid-December by the Advisory Group for Economic Restructuring, headed by Gaishi Hiraiwa, said additional economic steps, including tax reduction, are necessary to boost the slumping economy.

Hiraiwa is chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations, the most powerful business organization in Japan.

The report will also propose that the government make improvements to the social infrastructure, including housing, sewage treatment facilities, city parks, commutation systems, and international airports, by reviewing the current national budget allocation from the viewpoint of the ordinary citizen.

Although the report will avoid reference to any amendment of the 10-year public works program, worth 430 trillion yen, which started in fiscal 1991, it will hint at the likely advantages of an earlier execution of the spending as well as an increase in the outlay.

Some panel members proposed the addition of a further 100 trillion yen in funds for the total project, the source said.

Concerning the issue of housing, the report will propose a more effective use of land and a review of the land taxation, in order to improve liquidity in real estate and lower land prices, the draft said.

As for the need to correct the current trade imbalance, the report will propose that Japan should rely on domestic demand for growth rather than exports.

Opinions varied among panel members on the proposed income tax cut to give a shot in the arm to Japan's ailing economy, Isamu Miyazaki, acting chairman of the panel, said at a news conference.

While some members urged the need for a large-scale income tax reduction, others maintained such a cut would do little to spur the economy, said Miyazaki, who is also chairman of Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd, a private think tank.

One panel member called for an income tax cut of at least 5 trillion yen.

Those opposed to cutting income tax favored public works projects being implemented as planned to stoke up the stagnant economy, according to Miyazaki.

All the panel members agreed that setting numerical targets in various sectors for reducing Japan's mammoth current account surplus would be tantamount to approval of managed trade.

At the close of Thursday's meeting, Hiraiwa instructed the panel members to compile a "fresh-looking" report free from hackneyed words and phrases so that ordinary citizens could easily understand it, Miyazaki said.

The council will hold its next meeting on December 2.

Tax Panel Shuns Talks; Awaiting Decisions

OW2611112993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1003 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—A government advisory tax panel kicked off its discussions Friday [26 November] for fiscal 1994 tax reforms, but shunned concrete talks on an income tax cut and a consumption tax to await political decisions.

"We want to decide as early as possible," Kan Kato, chairman of the Tax Commission, an advisory panel to the prime minister, told a press conference after the panel meeting. "But the situation now is as you (reporters) well know."

He was referring to recent reports that a government decision on tax revamping and the budget for fiscal 1994 may be delayed until early next year due to the tight Diet schedule on political reform, on which Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa places priority, and also the second supplementary budget for the current fiscal 1993.

The government normally decides on its plans for tax reform and the budget soon after the Diet session closes and before the year- end.

Moreover, arrangements among ruling coalition parties could hit a snag as some leaders led by socialists are opposed to raising the consumption tax.

Kato described this as "a shrewd battle of wit and cunning."

With the panel recommending an income and residential tax cut and a consumption tax hike in its report for "medium-term" tax reforms announced last week, attention is fixed on whether the scheme will be included in its proposals for fiscal 1994 tax overhauling.

Given the report, Hosokawa recently said that he intends to conduct the income tax cut in advance of a consumption tax hike as a short-term measure to stimulate the stagnant economy.

No specific amount or date for such a plan has yet been officially spelled out.

Kato said that the panel does not necessarily have to delay discussions because of political and bureaucratic bickering. He stressed that the panel is on top as an institutionally accepted advisory panel to the prime minister. He compared private advisory panels to the prime ministers forums and ministry-level forums.

The panel in the Friday meeting discussed the results of regional hearings conducted Wednesday and on general issues on unfair tax systems such as special treatments on companies and nonprofit institutions, Kato said.

Meanwhile, he noted, "Interests surface when specific figures are presented," even though there are no big objections to the idea in general.

Kato had maintained that they are "up to politicians to decide" at a press meeting after presenting the medium-term report last week.

The panel will hold its next meeting on December 3 to map out the schedule and discussion topics.

New Criteria for Public Works Allocations Urged

OW2611085493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—A government fiscal advisory panel on public works spending on Friday [26 November] proposed more investment in housing and other areas in order to upgrade overall living conditions in Japan.

On outlays on industrial infrastructure improvement, the panel recommended formulating that category of budget in "a restrained manner" by considering the past investment record and various economic factors.

These recommendations, however, lack numerical goals and other specifics.

The panel, a subcommittee of the Fiscal System Council, an advisory body to the finance minister, made the recommendations in a report setting new criteria for budgetary allocation for public works projects.

The biggest purpose of the report is to rectify what many describe as a rigid allocation system for public works spending in Japan by showing an order of "priority" in the field, panel head Hiromitsu Ishi told a press conference.

The new criteria will serve as a guideline in the Finance Ministry compiling of the national budget for fiscal 1994 beginning next April, said Ishi, a professor at Hitotsubashi University.

The panel was inaugurated in October to help achieve Prime Minister Morihiro hosokawa's policy of improving living standards of the Japanese people.

Limited sources of funds should be used efficiently as the Japanese society is graying rapidly toward the next century, Ishi said.

The report failed to spell out numerical standards of weight to be placed on life-related investment and changes in allocations for specific fields needed among related ministries, apparently in consideration of possible direct resistance from parties concerned.

The panel wrote the report in "a weaker tone" and that "might slightly reflect the temperature of the Kasumigaseki District, an area where key government organizations are clustered," said Ishi.

Ishi said he hopes the new criteria will play a role in changing spending allocation for public projects "as much as possible."

How to implement the new policy is a matter to be handled by politicians, Ishi said, expressing hope for Prime Minister Hosokawa's strong leadership on the issue.

Under the new budgetary criteria, public works projects are divided into three main categories—for improving people's living conditions, for promoting preservation of national land and for upgrading industrial infrastructure.

The report, presented to Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii, said the highest priority should be given to enhancing living environments that cover housing investment, water supply systems, waste disposal facilities, construction of roads and parks, and agricultural drainage systems.

The criteria did not classify highway and airport construction in any of the groups, citing the need to assess its importance on an individual base.

The report refrained from referring to a "shinkansen" bullet train network expansion project, a politically sensitive issue.

The panel proposed that the Finance Ministry distribute a budget for public investment not on a ministry-by-ministry basis but on a project-by-project basis.

What percentage of outlays each ministry is given should be a result of the policy, the panel said.

The panel sought efficient allocation of funds for projects currently undertaken by more than two ministries.

A role to be played by each ministry should be clearly distinguished by carefully evaluating the nature of projects concerned, the panel said, noting that road construction, for example, is now undertaken by the Construction Ministry, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry and the Transport Ministry.

In the current fiscal year, the government earmarked about 8 trillion yen for public works projects, comprising 70 percent for the Construction Ministry, 20 percent for the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry and 10 percent for the Transport Ministry.

The shares have hardly changed in the past 10 years, panel head Ishi said.

Government To Grant New Employment Subsidies

OW2411141893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1355 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO—The government plans to establish new subsidies and expand existing ones to help corporations maintain employment amid the prolonged business slump, government sources said Wednesday [24 November].

Highlighted among the new subsidies are those for corporations which accept workers on a temporary basis from firms with which they have no business connection.

The government will provide 10 percent of the wages for transferred workers over the age of 45 when a large-scale company accepts them.

When small and medium-sized companies accept such workers, the subsidy ratio will be increased to 20 percent of the wages, according to the sources.

In another new development, the government will grant aid or provide loans with low interest rates to companies carrying out restructuring programs in line with government guidelines.

It will also ease the requirements for companies to receive existing employment adjustment subsidies, and increase subsidies and loans for corporations creating fresh employment opportunities, the sources said.

The subsidies are part of a comprehensive package of measures the government is now working on to maintain employment.

It is first such package since the 1986-87 period, when Japan's economy was hit hard by the sudden appreciation in the yen's value on the foreign exchange.

The measures will be examined by cabinet ministers this week and if approved, the government will proceed with them as early as next January, the sources said.

In order to carry out the comprehensive measures, the Finance Ministry will be asked to allocate an additional 100 billion yen in the fiscal 1994 national budget, they added.

The sources said the government is now working on the measures because it has become difficult for Japanese corporations to maintain the current level of employment by conventional steps, such as reducing overtime and temporarily shutting down operations.

If more drastic steps such as calling for voluntary retirement or layoffs increased, the already depressed economy would be further damaged.

The government wants to encourage the smooth flow of labor from low productivity corporations to those of high productivity, regardless of business affiliations.

Japan's employment situation has worsened recently due to the extended economic slump and no quick improvement is expected for the time being.

The ratio of job openings to job seekers declined in September to 0.69, the first figure below 0.7 in more than six years.

The unemployment rate, on the other hand, has risen steadily to stand at 2.6 percent in September, the highest in over five years.

Kubota Seeks Steps To Improve Labor Conditions

OW2611030093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0213 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Economic Planning Agency (EPA) Director General Manae Kubota on Friday [26 November] urged the Labor Ministry to formulate effective steps to improve the nation's employment situation.

The EPA will give its "full support" to the Labor Ministry to work out a set of labor measures when cabinet ministers hold an emergency meeting next Tuesday to discuss various labor problems facing Japan, Kubota told a regular press conference.

Such steps should be implemented to buoy up the long-slumping Japanese economy, Kubota said, noting it would be too late to act after the ongoing corporate move to cut idle workers gets more serious.

Participants in the forthcoming employment meeting include chiefs of the EPA, the Labor Ministry, Finance Ministry, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, the Transport Ministry, the Construction Ministry [words indistinct] Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura.

Kubota emphasized the need for the ruling coalition parties to form a consensus over the final proposals for an overhaul of Japan's tax system.

Reform proposals made last week by the government's Tax Commission should be put to practical use in a manner that reflects the voice of the Japanese people, she said.

The tax panel, an advisory body to the prime minister, recommended hiking consumption tax in exchange for reducing income tax. Coalition parties are divided, especially over the handling of the consumption tax issue.

Concerning the flagging stock market, Fujii repeated that the Finance Ministry is not considering additional measures. "Administrative authorities should not be commenting on stock-price levels," he said. But he reiterated that the government must now focus on market measures adopted in earlier economic stimulus packages and on steadfast implementation of other parts of the packages in a bid to spread "a real feeling" that the economy has bottomed out.

Fujii also repeated that the ministry is not planning any special action to help banks clear their nonperforming loans.

This should be by the banks themselves, Fujii said, adding, "I look forward to a further role by their joint debt-purchasing company."

Japan's 11 major commercial banks reported in their midterm earnings statements Thursday that nonperforming loans rose 9.6 percent to top 9 trillion yen as of September 30 from six months before, and wrote off 849.7 billion yen in losses from the bad loans.

Spending Urged on Raising Standard of Living

OW2611040993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0356 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Japan should devote more of its budget to improving the living environment, a government advisory panel on public works recommended Friday [26 November], sources close to the panel said.

The panel, a subcommittee of the Fiscal System Council, made the proposal in a report spelling out new criteria for budgetary allocations for public works spending, which it presented to Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii on Friday morning.

The sources said the new criteria focus on allocating more to projects to upgrade living conditions such as housing, water suppply systems and parks, in line with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's policy of enhancing the Japanese people's overall standard of living.

Among the proposals in the report are calls for cutting outlays on industrial infrastructure like port construction and agriculture- related projects, they said.

Under the new budgetary criteria, public works projects are divided into three main categories—improving living conditions, preserving national land, and upgrading industrial infrastructure.

Outlays for national land preservation should remain unchanged, the report said.

The Finance Ministry is expected to use the new criteria as a guideline in compiling the fiscal 1994 national budget.

Estimated requirements for public works outlays in fiscal 1994, submitted to the ministry in September, total some 8.93 trillion yen, up 4.3 percent from the original budget for fiscal 1993 ending next March 31.

The ministry is expected to approve the sum as it stands, in view of the long-slumping economy, the sources said.

The panel is designed to rectify what is generally described as a rigid allocation system for public works investment in Japan.

Budgetary shares of the various ministries and government agencies have hardly changed in years, reflecting strong resistance from the parties concerned to any change in the status quo.

North Korea

Return of U.S. Soldiers' Remains Set for 30 Nov

SK2611051693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 26 (KCNA)—Remains of 33 U.S. soldiers who died in the northern half of Korea in the Korean war will be handed over to the U.S. side at Panmunjom on November 30.

The remains were unearthed in accordance with "agreement on remains" which was adopted and effectuated on August 24.

The delivery of GIs' remains is expected in December, too.

Return To Take Place at Panmunjom

SK2611033693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0315 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] The remains of U.S. soldiers will be delivered through Panmunjom. The remains of 33 U.S. soldiers, who died in the area of the northern half of the Republic during the last Korean war and which were excavated pursuant to the agreement concerning the issue of remains adopted and effectuated on 24 August, will be delivered to the U.S. side at Panmunjom on 30 November. The work of delivering and receiving remains is expected to be done in December as well.

Paper Assails Kim Yong-sam's Visit to U.S.

SK2611102893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 26 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sam of South Korea made utterances antagonizing the North during his tour of the United States from November 17 to 25. This comes under fire in papers here today.

When he had talks respectively with leaders of some countries in the United States, Kim Yong-sam requested them to "exercise their influence" as regards the "North's nuclear problem," a fiction. At talks with Clinton, he opposed the formula of package settlement of the nuclear problem proposed by the North, putting the brake on the third round of the DPRK-U.S. talks.

Papers say that this reveals his ugly color as a flunkeyist and traitor licking the shoes of outside forces and shows that his U.S. trip was a treacherous one aimed at doing harm to fellow countrymen in league with outside forces.

A NODONG SINMUN analyst says:

If he was really concerned for the nation and wanted peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula, he should have rejected the moves of the international reactionaries against fellow countrymen and done things favorable to the successfull progress of the DPRK-U.S. talks in the interests of the nation and in conformity with the cause of peace. However, he, far from doing so, asked outside forces to victimize fellow countrymen, while foolishly trying to put pressure on the North and rein in the United States in regard to the third round of the DPRK-USA talks. His despicable act is a treacherous crime to obstruct a solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula and leave South Korea indefinitely a nuclear base of the United States. It can be done only by a dyed-in-the-wool traitor and flunkeyist who has not an iota of national dignity and conscience.

While in the United States, he waxed eloquent, blaring that South Korea has the "rights to finally decide" upon the period of the "Team Spirit" military exercises and other matters and it is "powerful" and "ready to counter the enemy." This is a sophism for veiling the poor position of a colonial puppet with no political independence and the prerogative of the supreme command of the army.

It is our unshakable will to defend the dignity and interests of the nation and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country with concerted efforts of the nation. We will sternly punish the traitors who are trying to stifle fellow countrymen in league with outside forces, while betraying the nation.

It is contrary to the spirit of the DPRK-USA joint statement that the United States summoned Kim Yong-sam and sat in conclave with him to antagonize the DPRK.

U.S. Urged To Halt ROK-Japan Antitalk Effort

SK2611155993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1553 GMT 26 Nov 93

["Japanese and South Korean Authorities Should Give Up Nuclear Ambition"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 26 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK in a statement issued to the press today said that the Japanese and South Korean authorities should not try to cover up and justify their reckless nuclear development and moves for nuclear armament but look straight at the trend of the times, give up their nuclear ambition and stop applying the brake to the fundamental settlement of the nuclear prollem on the Korean peninsula.

Refering to the recent moves of Japan and the South Korean authorities for nuclear armament which have entered a dangerous stage, the spokesman said:

MAINICHI SHIMBUN on November 19 carried a material contained in the latest report on the non-proliferation of nuclear arms worked out by the U.S. Defence Department in which a "serious concern over Japan's nuclear armament" was manifested. It held that a fundamental reexamination of the nuclear policy mf Japan including the discontinuation of the planned construction of intermediary experimental reactor of the fast breeder reactor be urged and there is latent fear of the nuclear armament of Japan within the U.S. Government.

Irrefutable data proving that South Korea's attempt at nuclear development has become evermore undisguised are disclosed one after another.

Newspapers of United States, Britain and other countries, reporting materials on the South Korean development of nuclear weapons, said 10 tons of plutonium have already been stockpiled there and it will increase to 24 tons around the year 2000.

It is not a secret that Japan has already embarked upon the road of nuclear armament and South Korea, too, is developing nuclear weapons. This notwithstanding the Japanese and South Korean authorities are perpetrating such rash acts as laying hurdles in the way of the DPRK-US talks, flouting the world opinion over our non-existent "nuclear problem. This goes to prove that in barring a satisfactory solution to the nuclear problem at the talks they seek an ulterior aim to gain time for promoting the development of nuclear weapons and find a pretext for justifying their nuclear armament.

What an attitude and stance they take toward the DPRK-US talks for a fair solution to the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula will be a yardstick showing whether they keep to the road of nuclear armament or not and whether they wish the peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the rest of Asia or not. Should the settlement of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula is blocked by reckless obstructions on the part of the Japanese and South Korean authorities, they will be held wholly responsible for the ensuing disastrous consequences. The United States had better stop the desperate efforts of the Japanese and South Korean authorities to scuttle the hard-won DPRK- us talks and develop nuclear weapons and thus make a substantial contribution to non-proliferation of nuclear arms.

Remarks by Japanese Defense Minister Denounced

SK2611120793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0855 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Unattributed talk: "The Japanese Authorities Must Not Run Wild Indiscreetly."]

[Text] Japanese Minister of Defense Agency Nakanishi made very meaningful remarks in a recent meeting of the House of Councillors that Japan will take proper countermeasures in case of emergency on the Korean peninsula. This was an open expression of Japan's criminal attempt to invade our Republic by dispatching its troops in case of emergency on the Korean peninsula. Nakanishi's bellicose outburst is a grave [omjunghan] challenge to our Republic.

As everyone knows, the South Korean authorities are now pushing the situation of the Korean peninsula to the brink of war in collusion with outside forces. The very dangerous outburst made by the Japanese minister of defense agency at a time when the South Korean authorities are making this alarming move has caused the world's fair and just social circles' great indignation.

As has already been reported, acts that agitate us extremely have been conducted in succession in South Korea and Japan. On 2 November, the South Korean defense minister said that the South would not hesitate military countermeasures to our so-called nuclear development, and Japanese Prime Minister Hosokawa came to South Korea to map a scheme against us.

Following them, Nakanishi talked about Japan's countermeasures or the like. From this, we can know that Japanese reactionaries and South Korean puppets are certainly accelerating the maneuver under the so-called international cooperative system to stifle [apsal] our Republic.

Of course, this was not the first time the Japanese authorities had made such remarks. Ozawa Iziro, executive secretary of Japan's Sinsei Party, also said that Japan can dispatch its troops as a part of the United Nations forces in case of emergency on the Korean peninsula.

As shown by the Japanese authorities' recent acts, Japan has no will either to admit frankly its past crimes or to make a heartfelt apology and proper compensation for them. It is no accident that many Asian countries' papers comment that Japan has an unclear conscience and that Japan tries to avoid clearing the past because it wishes to repeat it.

Japan has actually finished military preparations for reinvasion. The Japanese Self-Defense Force are equipped with modern means of attack for a long and long-distance war. Its self-defense force has huge military potential. Its per minute shooting rapidity is almost 44 times more than that of the Japanese Royal Army during the Pacific war.

After predetermining the reinvasion of our country, the Japanese reactionary rulers are having soldiers of its self-defense force learn Korean and be well acquainted with the configuration of Korea's territory. They are conducting all this according to their strategies to carry out a sudden preemptive stike.

It is clear like fire that the arrow of the Japanese armed forces aims at the Korean peninsula. The Japanese reactionaries, however, make a wrong estimate. As shown in history, those who enjoy fire are sure to be burned to death. The Japanese history shows this clearly. Japan was burned to death in the fire set by itself after failing to realize its desire for the great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere by raising the Pacific war in the 1940s.

If Japan still has a desire for that thingamajig and to conquer the Asia-Pacific region again, that is a silly delusion. The desire of reinvasion cherished by the Japanese militarists will only result in the ruin of Japan. The Japanese authorities must not run wild and should behave themselves discreetly, looking straight at the trend of the times.

CPRF Denounces ROK Plot on 'Secret Documents'

SK2511111593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 25 (KCNA)— The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] bitterly denounced the plot of the South Korean "Security Planning Board" [Agency for National Security Planning—NSP] as regards the secret documents on POWs of the Korean People's Army found on Koje Island, branding it as another serious case fostering distrust and confrontation between the North and the South and an anti-national crime defending the shocking brutalities committed by the U.S. forces against fellow countrymen.

In a statement today the spokesman for the CPRF said:

The South Korean puppet "SPB", through the magazine WOLGAN CHUNGANG, denied the inhumanitarian acts perpetrated by the U.S. forces against POWs of the People's Army during the war. It viciously slandered the North, alleging that the letter written by POWs of the People's Army to the world peace conference and the remains they left were "fabrications" of the "North's agents." This is a premeditated scheme to intentionally deteriorate the North-South relations.

The "SPB" of South Korea concealed and controlled secret documents of the Koje Island POW camp introduced by the South Korean press last year so that they might not be known to the world and, on the other hand, manipulated paid journalists to publish preposterous articles one after another, the statement notes, and continues:

As far as the author who wrote the article at the request of the "SPB" is concerned, he is a despicable hack writer preoccupied in anti-communist, anti-North writing disturbing national reconciliation and unity and inciting antagonism among the fellow countrymen; he is widely known among the South Korean people as a "secret agent of the SPB." This indisputably proves that the article on the letter of POWs of the People's Army is a "product" of the script of the "SPB."

All the anti-North cases in South Korea have been concocted and directed on the script of the "SPB" without exception. And they have laid grave obstacles to North-South reconciliation and unity, dialogue and reunification.

Although the incumbent South Korean rulers are loudly advertising "civilian" government, pretending to shape "democratic politics," the "SPB" which had been the foundation of the preceding military fascist "regimes" for existence still controls all the affairs related to reunification and the North, resorting to all banditry to aggravate the North-South relations and bring dialogue to bankruptcy.

The present-day reality in which the cause of national reunification should be accomplished at an early date with the great unity of the whole nation urgently requires that such anti-reunification machines as the "SPB" which opposes reunification and persistently intervenes to obstruct dialogue be dissolved at once.

If the South Korean puppets are truly concerned over the destiny of the country and the nation and willing to solve the pending issues between the North and the South including the nuclear problem through negotiation, they must dissolve the "SPB" as unanimously demanded by the South Korean people and stop their anti-national criminal acts to harm the fellow countrymen with the help of foreign forces.

Red Cross Official's Message to ROK Counterpart

SK2511001693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2210 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] On 24 November, Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, in a telephone message to his South Korean counterpart, Kang Yong-hun, urged the South Korean Red Cross to take measures to handle immediately a letter and belongings of Korean People's Army [KPA] prisoners of war [POW's] newly discovered at the site of the POW camp in Koje Island.

The content of the message is as follows: I, through a letter to you on 5 May, had requested that the letter and belongings of KPA POW's newly discovered at the site of the POW camp in Koje Island be handed over to our side, who is the party concerned. Your side's Red Cross Society, however, has not taken any measures to hand over the letter and relics of KPA POW's to our side up to the present time and, moreover, you yourself refused to answer the questions regarding the issue.

Materials left by KPA POW's prove that the U.S. Forces had committed unforgivable crimes by using KPA POW's in firearms and germ warfare tests at the POW camp more than 40 years ago. In this connection, the materials must be duly announced and kept as precious historic evidence.

As your position and that of the Red Cross Society are no different from ours in cursing the U.S. Forces' criminal deeds committed on fellow countrymen, we expected that your side's Red Cross Society would take an urgent measure. Your side, however, failed to show any response, which we think is very regrettable.

If your side's Red Cross, whose concept is based on respect for international law and humanitarianism, refuses to deliver the belongings and letter of the People's Army POW's, who accused the U.S. Forces of their murderous atrocities to the last moment, acting under the manipulation of the Security Planning Board and bowing to its pressure, it would be committing a hideous crime that will be long remembered in history.

Our side's Red Cross Society notifies your side that two competent officials will be sent to the conference room of the neutral National Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom on 14 December, which marks the lapse of one year since the discovery of the material, to receive the letter and relics.

ROK Plans To Purchase Air-To-Air Missiles

SK2611051393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 26 Nov 93

["Act Going Against Relaxation of Tension"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 26 (KCNA)—The South Korean ruling quarters are scheming to introduce 317 air-to-air missiles worth 169 million dollars from the United States, according to a radio report from Seoul on November 24.

The U.S. Defence Department announced that they include weapons for fighter planes such as 190 new-type medium-range air-to-air missiles and 127 short-range air-to-air missiles.

The scheme to increase new-type weapons at a time when disarmament has become a worldwide trend and voices calling for the ease of tension and peace on the Korean peninsula are growing louder at home and abroad clearly shows that they are nuclear warmaniacs watching for a chance of invading the North.

Further on ROK's Missiles Plan

SK2511234693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] According to a radio report from Seoul on 24 November, the South Korean puppets are scheming to introduce from the United States 317 air-to-air missiles valued at $169 million. The U.S. Defense Department revealed these missiles include weapons used in fighters, including 190 new type medium-range air-to-air missiles and 127 short-range air-to-air missiles.

Such maneuvers by the South Korean puppets to reinforce a new type of weapon at a time when disarmament has become a world trend and the voices calling for detente and peace on the Korean peninsula are raising at home and abroad clearly show that they are precisely the nuclear war maniacs who are attempting to invade the North.

Kim Chong-il Leadership on Nuclear Issue Noted

SK2611011393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Shiroki Kibo, secretary general of the Tokyo Society for Learning From Secretary Kim Chong-il, wrote an article entitled "Happy People Living in the Chuche Fatherland," which was published by CHOSON SINBO on 17 November. [passage omitted]

The author wrote as follows under a column headed:"The Brilliant Standard Bearer for Anti-Imperialism."

We visited the Republic when the political and military situation surrounding the Korean peninsula was very tense due to the nuclear inspection issue and the enforcement of the Team Spirit-93 exercise. Where we were staying we could see that all the employees were getting ready, ideologically and physically, to repel the U.S. imperialists in case they waged an attack at any time. [passage omitted]

The United States said in the DPRK-U.S. talks that it would not wage a preemptive nuclear attack on or pose a nuclear threat to the Republic, thus submitting to the just demands of the DPRK. We vividly felt through a series of moves surrounding the nuclear inspection issue that if one maintains the independence of one's country and nation and wages a consistent and principled struggle, the imperialists will withdraw and the coercion of the imperialists wielding money and military power will be nothing to be afraid of.

We have heard that the DPRK's principled attitude, consistent policy, and diplomatic activities concerning the nuclear inspection issue are all conducted under the leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il. He is truly the standard-bearer of the anti-imperialist movement of today's world. If war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, then Okinawa, our native place where our parents, brothers and sisters, and friends live, will be engulfed in the fires of war. [passage omitted]

Kim Chong-il's Military Skills Praised

SK2511082493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0733 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Talk entitled "The Great Traits of a Brilliant Commander," from the serial roundtable talk "Iron-Clad Brilliant Commander," by Yi Myong-hun, professor from Kim Il-song Political College; Chon Chi-u, associate professor and associate doctor; and O Myong-hwa, doctor and associate professor; moderated by station reporter Yo Song-hwan; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Moderator] How are you? Last time we talked about the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's unequalled bravery and iron- clad will. Today, let us talk about the dear comrade leader's great traits as a talented military genius.

[First speaker] We have an old saying that a carpenter who builds palaces cannot make one small chest drawer. It is indeed true. There are military commanders who are good at shooting but lack commanding skill, other commanders may be good at commanding but do not have technical resources including tactics. Some commanders are resourceful but lack talent in other fields.

Taking the examples of the generals who are long remembered in history, some are knowledgeable in infantry but not in tanks, others are well acquainted with tanks but are ignorant of aircraft; some have good command of aircraft operation but [words indistinct]. This shows there is a limit in one's knowledge, capability, and radius of action.

However, our supreme commander, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, has overcome the limit. First of all, he is excellent in marksmanship which is a basic but important skill of a militarist. We do not have to emphasize his extraordinary marksmanship because it is already well known, but there is one episode that we have to reiterate.

One day in November 1974, the dear comrade leader visited a company rifle range of an Army unit. Saying that he wanted to see the company's marksmanship, he asked the company commander to start firing training with live bullets. That is how the company began a firing training with live bullets that day in the presence of the dear comrade leader.

After examining the firing training site, the dear comrade leader pointed out the defects one by one after the training was over, explaining how to make bull's eye shots methodically, and said that he would give it a try, in other words, give a demonstration shooting.

He asked them to hang 10 glass bottles on a tree at a distance of 50 meters. The bottles were ready after a while, but it was very windy that day and the bottles were swinging in a disorderly manner. It was difficult to see the bottles from 50-meter distance because they were made of transparent glass. Not bothered by this, however, the dear comrade leader loaded a pistol with 10 bullets and stepped forward to the shooting line.

In a moment, the firing began with the noise "bang". He fired five times successively without any aiming and blew away five glass bottles. Then he tossed the pistol into his left hand in a flash, fired another five bullets with the same speed, and smashed all the five remaining bottles. One can hardly hit the swinging bottles even with one's right hand but he hit them all with his left hand. Astonished by the scene, the company soldiers and attendants were speechless looking at each other's faces.

Commanders may have their right hands injured during combat. Therefore, left hands should be trained as skillfully as right hands. The dear comrade leader gave the company commanders a lesson on this point.

[Second speaker] The dear comrade leader is not only good at marksmanship. Once he gave an on-the-spot guidance to a tank unit of an Army unit. Talking with the tank men at recess during training, he asked them if they could cross the steep mountain in front of them in a tank.

The mountain was not very high, but it was very steep. When the tank men told him that they go around the mountain, the dear comrade leader said there are many mountains in our country, and asked how they could not overcome such slopes. He said he would get in the tank himself, and then opened the cap of the tank near him and slid in.

After a while, he came out of the tank and explained to the tank men how to operate a tank in detail—what direction to take for what kind of slope, and how to control the speed. Finally, he said the tanks should be redesigned so that they could cross all kinds of small and large rivers. He even taught them how to redesign the tanks.

The tank men were amazed by the dear comrade leader's brilliance with profound knowledge about tanks, and said with overflowing confidence that they would train harder, possess high operating skills, and further improve the tank's design. Hearing their resolution, the dear comrade leader warmly told them that it is good to intensify training but they should never take risks.

[Third speaker] The dear comrade leader also amazed the pilots and air force commanders several times. One summer day, he was at an airport which was waiting for the arrival of a plane from somewhere. Having heard about it, the dear comrade leader was walking past the flight command station when he looked up in the sky.

There were spots of clouds passing in the sky which had been clear a short while ago. As if he had sensed something from the speed of the clouds and the wind, he asked an airport functionary to quickly go inside and ask for a weather forecast from the weather station. Having received the order, the functionary went inside and rushed out later with a perplexed face.

"What did they say?" he asked. The nervous commander said the reply was that in 10 minutes, the sky over the airport would be covered with low rain clouds, and there would be storm and thunders. The plane was due to arrive in 10 minutes. It was very dangerous for the plane to fly through the rain clouds with powerful electricity and a lightning rainstorm. It would certainly bring irreversible consequences. The situation was very critical.

It was getting darker by the minute. The perplexed airport employees only hurried themselves but the dear comrade leader looked around calmly and asked: "From what direction is the plane to arrive?" "It will land from the north." "North?." He repeated and looked up to the sky again. Then he himself gave the flight commands. He had the plane land from south and informed them of the plane's turning direction, speed, and altitude. He looked at the watch and walked out to the runway. The sky was already covered with thick, dark clouds, and it was thundering with showers pouring in the northern sky. At that time, a black spot appeared from the small corner opened in southern sky. That was the plane. Later, almost at the same time that the plane landed safely, the thunder blustered and flashed in the southern sky. It would have caused a disaster if they were late for one moment.

A heart-moving scene took place at the airport. Members of the plane's crew praised the dear comrade leader who had enabled the plane to land safely amid danger, highly admiring him as a legendary great man with supernatural power.

There are endless lists of episodes like this. The dear comrade leader is an all-round brilliant commander who has a mastery of all fields of all services and branches of services of the armed forces, including marksmanship, tanks, flight skill, cannons, combat ships, and telecommunications. Our supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is as great as this.

[Moderator] He is a prominent military genius who has all the qualifications and traits a militarist could possess at the loftiest level. Our people and People's Army, who are upholding the dear comrade leader, a peerless brilliant commander whom no one can match, at the highest position of the revolutionary Armed Forces, will be ever-victorious forever. This concludes our talk today, and see you next time.

New Law Regulating Foreign Banks Detailed

SK2611105893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang November 26 (KCNA)—"The Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Foreign-Invested Banks" was adopted as decision No. 42 of the Central Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK dated November 24, 1993.

It consists of five chapters and 32 articles.

The first chapter "General Rules" (Articles 1-7) says that the law of the DPRK on foreign-invested banks contributes to the expansion and development of cooperation with different countries of the world in financing.

It says:

A foreign investor may establish and operate a foreign-invested bank within the territory of the DPRK.

Foreign-invested banks include joint venture banks, foreign banks and branches of foreign banks.

Foreign banks and their branches are allowed only in the free economic and trade zone.

Foreign banks shall have ownership over their banking property and shall be independent in their management.

Management of the foreign-invested banks shall be subjected to the relevant laws and regulations of the DPRK.

Koreans residing outside the territory of the DPRK may establish and operate banks with their investment in the territory of the DPRK.

The second chapter "Establishment and Dissolution of Foreign-Invested Banks" (Articles 8-17) points to specific rules arising in establishing and dissolving banks.

It says:

An investor who intends to establish a foreign-invested bank in the territory of the DPRK is required to file an application with the Central Bank, declaring the name of the bank, the name and life history of its chief, the capital to be registered, paid-up capital, management fund, investment rate, details of business, etc.

For the purpose of establishing a joint venture bank, application should be filed by the party concerned, for a foreign bank by the foreign investor concerned, and for a branch by the head office of the bank concerned.

A foreign-invested bank shall be dissolved when it cannot continue its operation due to such reasons as the expiry of terms approved, merger of the banks, insolvency, defaulting of the contract and natural calamities.

The investor in a foreign-invested bank may, with the approval of the Central Bank, transfer partially or wholly the capital invested to a third person. The third chapter "Capital Funds and Reserve Fund of Foreign- Invested Banks" (Articles 18-22) stipulates that a joint venture bank and a foreign bank should hold the registered capital in convertible currency of more than 30,000,000 Korean won and a branch of the foreign bank should hold the working capital funds in convertible currency of more than 8,000,000 Korean won.

It says that a foreign-invested bank may reserve [words indistinct] need as premium fund welfare fund and R and D fund.

The fourth chapter "Transactions and Settlement of Foreign-Invested Banks" (Articles 23-28) stipulates such transactions of a foreign-invested bank as depositing in foreign currencies of foreign-invested enterprises, foreign enterprises or foreigners, investment in foreign currencies, guarantee as regards liabilities in foreign currencies and defaulting of contract obligations, clearing of the importer's and exporter's bills, accepting of securities in foreign currencies and so on.

It refers to the preferential treatment to be granted to foreign- invested banks, saying that in case the term of business is longer than 10 years, the corporation tax shall be exempted for the first profit-making year and shall be reduced by up to 50 percent for the succeeding 2 years. The income accruing from the banking business and the residual fund, if any, left over after the liquidation of the bank may, subject to the laws and regulations of the DPRK on foreign exchange, be remitted abroad without a tax.

The fifth chapter "Penalties and Settlement of Disputes" says that a foreign-invested bank shall be liable to fine in case it changed its chief or deputy chief or the location of the bank without approval, or in case it failed to save the reserve fund of required amount or in case it obstructed or caused difficulties in inspection, it points out.

In case a foreign invested bank engages in other transactions than those approved, or revises the articles of association and increases or decreases the registered capital and working capital funds without approval, it says, it may be ordered out of operation.

It stipulates that disputes concerned with banking business shall be settled through consultation. In case of failure in consultation they shall be brought to the court of law or the arbitration agency of the DPRK for settlement.

Meeting of 'July 11 Red Flag' Units Held

SK2611050993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 26 (KCNA)—A national meeting of activists of July 11 Red Flag tongs and neighbourhood units took place in Pyongyang over November 24 and 25.

The meeting, the first of its kind in Korea, summed up the successes and experiences made in consolidating the basic cells of the people's power and discussed measures to improve and strengthen the work of tongs and neighbourhood units by dynamically conducting the movement for winning the July 11 Red Flag tong and neighborhood unit titles in keeping with the requirements of the developing reality. On July 11, 1972, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il visited Hasin-tong, Sosong District, Pyongyang, made the historical talk "Let us Improve the Work of Tongs and Neighbourhood Units" to officials and set forth a policy of waging a new-type mass movement in the building of the people's power in conformity with the requirement of the developing revolution for further increasing the function and role of the people's power.

Thus began the movement for winning July 11 Red Flag tong and neighbourhood unit titles.

The meeting was attended by Premier Kang Song-san and Vice-President Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other senior cadres, officials of model ups, residential quarters and tongs and heads of neighbourhood units from all parts of the country.

Hong Song-nam, alternate Politburo member of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier, delivered a report, which was followed by speeches. The reporter and the speakers referred to successes made in the past and laid stress on measures.

The mass movement for bringing about a collective innovation in the work of tongs and neighbourhood units has been conducted vigorously in the whole society. As a result, over 21,600 neighbourhood units and 60 tongs won the July 11 Red Flag, and more than 1,600 neighbourhood units the twice July 11 Red Flag, taking the country as a whole [sentence as received].

It was stressed at the meeting that the whole country and the entire people are upholding the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty, trusting and following him only, and this is a great success of the movement for winning the July 11 Red Flag tong and neighbourhood unit titles and the source of the solidity and indestructibility of the people's power.

It was pointed out at the meeting that they would make the loyalty to the party and the leader their faith, conscience, morality and an inseparable part of life and would share their destiny with the dear leader, no matter how the heaven and the earth may change.

The participants said they with the spirit of devoted service for the people would make the livelihood of the people more affluent and cultured, build better extramural studying conditions and sports and amusement facilities for pupils and children and strengthen education of them in order to bring them up to be dependable heirs to the revolutionary cause.

A message of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

'Powerful Makers of Social History' Viewed

SK2511042593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0408 GMT 25 Nov 93

["Popular Masses, Makers of Social History"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 24 (KCNA)—The powerful driving force of the revolution, the integral whole of the leader, the party and the masses, is the inexhaustible source of the victorious advance and completion of Korean-style socialism, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is quoted as saying:

"The subject of the social movement consists in the masses of the people. Without the masses there would be no social movement itself, nor would it be conceivable to talk about historical progress."

The paper says in a by-lined article:

The chuche idea expounded that the masses of people are the makers of social history for the first time in history.

This means that the masses of people positively launch the socio-historical movement and carry it out while standing in its centre. That the masses of people are makers of social history does not necessarily mean that they discharge their mission and duty as the makers of history any time. Only when they are united around the outstanding leader of the working class can they become independent makers of history and the motive force of historical development.

Only when they become makers of social history can they be a most powerful and dignified people shaping their destiny independently.

Independence is the life and soul for a social human being.

It is the people's own work to shape their destiny independently. No other one can take their place. When the people become independent makers of history, closely united around the party and the leader, they can be powerful and dignified beings shaping their destiny independently and successfully through any storm and stress.

Only when they become makers of social history can they also successfully build socialism, repulsing the challenges of the imperialists.

The decisive factor of the development and destiny of socialist society depends on whether the masses of people are firmly prepared as the driving force of the revolution or not.

The historical lesson shows that the socialist society where the people are makers of social history can defend socialism forever, overcoming difficulties and trials on its way forward and that the country where the people are not independent makers of history cannot but go to ruin in face of the anti-socialist offensive of the imperialists and reactionaries even if it is a big country with strong military force and vast economic potential.

The realities of Korea clearly prove that the popular masses can brilliantly shape their destiny when they become makers of social history.

The Korean people accept the plan and intention, line and policy of the party as their own vital requirement and implement them, displaying matchless devotion and self-sacrificing spirit. "When the party is determined, we can do anything!" Put up by all of them is filled with their unshakable resolve to discharge their duty as independent makers of history, upholding the noble intention of the party.

The socialist society where the people become powerful makers of social history, united in one mind around the party and the leader, can repulse any challenge and obstruction of the imperialists and reactionaries and keep its advantages and vitality in full play.

Chairman's Report to Korean Journalist Union

SK2611052793

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting in Korean at 0618 GMT on 17 November carries an 85-minute, recorded report delivered by Hyon Chun-kuk, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Journalist Union [KJU] and responsible editor-in-chief of NODONG SINMUN, at the seventh KJU congress held on 17 November in Pyongyang.

Hyon Chun-kuk says that this congress marks a new turn in the development of DPRK journalists' political and ideological life, and of the party's ideological works, by strengthening the unity and loyalty of all the journalists to share the destiny with their leader [suryong] and leader [yongdoja] under any circumstance.

Hyon says: "History shows that if a socialist ruling party fails to lead the journalists in the right path to allow them to use their pens to defend their own interests, an irrevocable, arduous storm in implementing the socialist cause will result."

Hyon declares that the proudest task for journalists is to become the vanguard in the honorary work of upholding the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] as the center of unity by inheriting our revolution's tradition of single-hearted unity around the leader [suryong].

Hyon continues by saying: "At a time when a great leader [widaehan chidoja] is emerging with the revolution's generational change [hyongmyongui taega paggwigo], the manner in which journalists uphold and follow the outstanding leader [tagwolhan yongdoja] who is leading the revolution shouldering the desire of the times and the people, is an issue of vital importance to the existence of socialism and to their own lives."

Noting that in many countries where socialism collapsed, journalists who once showed loyalty to their parties and leaders stooped to become mean, low-class traitors by slandering and humiliating the achievements of their leaders who had pioneered the revolution, Hyon asserts that our DPRK journalists are upholding their leader [yongdoja] with faith and will by devoting their utmost to publicize his greatness and achievements, without being shaken ideologically in the slightest degree and no matter how the surrounding situation may change.

Hyon notes that no matter how trifle the deeds displaying the spirit of communism were, the dear comrade leader sent personal letters of thanks and all the publishers and media have waged a struggle to widely publicize this to blossom a garden of human love in this country. Hyon further praises the DPRK journalists for their contributions in fostering chuche and communist revolutionists by publicizing the dear comrade leader's great human reform idea when some foreign countries' parties did not work hard on ideological indoctrination and deteriorated people and society, and abandoned socialism.

Hyon comments that the DPRK has become the bulwark of socialism because of the leadership of the supreme commander who is an ironclad general, and the firm unity of the party, army, and the people. Hyon further notes that no such lofty and solid army-people unity has ever been seen in history as today when the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is leading the revolutionary forces, and the people share life and death, joy and sorrow with the army as they do with their own families.

Hyon continued to say that history proves the truth that if the leader [yongdoja] were to fail to lead the journalists on the right path, he would not be able to grab the party's base and the leading system, and that the journalists cannot imagine being qualified for, or being a journalist away from the leader's bosom.

Hyon asserts that facing the demanding task to firmly defend, adhere to, and further elucidate the chuche socialist cause, the journalist should once again effect an upsurge wth the pen entrusted by the party, in publishing and reporting works according to the political circumstance and the demand of revolutionary development.

Hyon further warns that instead of seeking lessons in the repeated defeats in the confrontation against us, the imperialists and reactionaries who are becoming more contemptuous and rude, are ceaselessly increasing the political and ideological (?offensives), military pressure [kunsajok amnyok], and economic sanctions to obliterate the DPRK which is a bulwark of socialism in the world.

Calling the DPRK media "most revolutionary and combatant," Hyon urges all the media to more highly extol the voice of truth and the victory of socialism so as to shine more brilliantly as a model to the world in which socialism is collapsing and capitalism has returned in many countries. Hyon defines the journalists' general task as that of "devoting their utmost in the publishing and propaganda activities so that the whole party and all of the people brilliantly complete the cause of chuche revolutionary and the cause of bringing about independence to the whole world by upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership and to blossom the glorious work led by him."

Hyon notes the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song's teaching: "In order to defend our country's popular mass- centered socialism, and to brilliantly complete the chuche revolutionary cause, the whole party and all of the people should uphold Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership well. The road to inheriting and completing the socialist cause is guaranteed when Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership is upheld well."

Hyon asserts that the journalists must make all the people have the firm faith that as long as we have the dear comrade leader, there is nothing to be afraid of, and we will see victory no matter how strong the enemy, by publicizing formidable incidents and facts that "the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il safeguarded the nation's destiny and the security of the fatherland amid arduous adversity never before seen in history with his peerless bravery and strategies," and that "with one single order, he led the entire country, the entire army, and all the people in subduing [cheap] the enemy with one blow, and deterred a new world war which might have brought about a nuclear war disaster to mankind."

Hyon says the lesson from the former Soviet Union and eastern European countries is that when people fail to adhere to revolutionary achievements which took their party and leader a long time in history to establish, but damage and obliterate them, it is the end of socialism and the beginning of people's misery.

Hyon continues to laud that for over 5,000 years ever since the establishment of Tangun Choson, our country has never shone as it does today before the world with heroic events in what people of the world call "the glorious Kim Chong-il era." [yonggwangsuroun kim chong-il sidae]

Stressing the journalists' role of "preventing the penetration of the imperialist reactionary ideology and culture, and the bourgeois life-style," Hyon urges journalists to "vigorously carry out the propaganda work for implementing the rural thesis so that the day when everyone eats rice with meat soup, wears silk clothes, and lives in tile-roofed houses comes earlier."

Hyon says all journalists should publicize the unique army-people unity achieved through the comrade supreme commander's endless love and warm care for the officers and men of the People's Army, and actively seek "heart-moving incidents in which the army lay down their lives for the people, and the people helped the army like their own families." Hyon also stressed the journalist's sacred and honorable duty to vigorously carry out the publishing and reporting activities for contributing to the nation's long-cherished wish of reunification.

Asserting that DPRK journalists' pens and microphones should bear pure loyalty and the soul of chuche that endlessly admires and upholds their leader [suryong] and party, Hyon declares that DPRK journalists share an inseparable destiny with the dear comrade leader.

Hyon expresses the determination of journalists to follow the single road of socialism with firm unity rallied around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Hyon notes that "next year marks the 20th anniversary of the dear comrade leader's release of the historic 19 February and 7 May documents which launched revolutions in commentaries, newspapers, broadcast and publishing."

Hyon concludes by asserting that it is the sacred duty of DPRK journalists to brilliantly inherit the history of loyalty which has upheld the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il no matter how far and arduous the revolutionary road may be, in the future as they have in the past, forever bear life-long loyalty to the dear comrade leader, and share their destiny, joy, and sorrow with him.

Hyon ends his report with the slogan: "Let us become loyal pens and microphones sharing the destiny of the dear comrade leader, forever."

Journalists Vow To Effect Great Change

SK2611045193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 26 (KCNA)—The Korean journalists, men of the press, in response to the historic letter the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent to the participants in the Seventh Congress of the Korean Journalists Union [KJU] on November 19, are hardening their determination to effect a great change in the publication and information services under the guidance of the illustrious leader.

Comrade Kim Chong-il in the letter highly appreciated our journalists, men of the press firmly trusting in the party and resolutely upholding the cause of the party and placed a deep trust in them and hardened their will to advance along the road of socialism without the slightest vacillation even under any complicated situation.

Choe Yong-sam, first vice-chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], the KJU, said that the Central Committee of the KJU would further improve and strengthen its union work to suit its characteristics as a body of ideological education so that all journalists, men of the press may glorify for ever the precious title of the party's penmen with the great honour and pride of holding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as the great leader and teacher.

Kim Chong-hwan, editor-in-chief of PYONGYANG SINMUN said that he would carry through the teachings given by the dear leader to PYONGYANG SINMUN to actively introduce and propagandize the stirring realities of Pyongyang, the heart of the Korean revolution and a beacon of hope that all the people of the world look up to.

Chang Tok-chin, chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial Radio Broadcasting Committee, said that in response to the letter of the dear leader the officials and journalists of the committee are in high spirits and that they would hold higher the pen and mike of revolution and introduce and propagandize widely at home and abroad the greatness of the dear leader and the invincible might of our-style socialist system centred on the masses.

South Korea

Commentaries on Summit Talks With U.S. Noted

Negotiation 'Precondition' Viewed

SK2611075893 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 26 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] In connection with North Korea's nuclear issue, the government stated at the 23 November ROK-U.S. summit talks that as a precondition for U.S.-DPRK negotiations, there must be progress in South-North dialogue and negotiations with North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency must be resumed. Thus, viewing that this issue will be a long-term issue, it was learned on 25 November that the government decided to provide various measures regarding this matter.

A government official revealed on 25 November: "In the ROK-U.S. summit talks, President Kim Yong-sam insisted that progress in South-North dialogue must be a precondition for the U.S.-DPRK contacts. Thus, this was agreed upon by the ROK and the United States, and in addition it was agreed upon by the two leaders that the ROK will decide on whether to hold the Team Spirit exercise. As a result, the precondition for resolving North Korea's nuclear issue is being focused on South-North dialogue."

This official continued: "As a result of the ROK-U.S. summit talks, there is a feeling that North Korea's nuclear issue has gone back to the starting point somewhat, but there is great significance in that this issue is under our initiative. Therefore, various measures must be newly examined for progress in South-North dialogue."

In this connection, the government has decided that the South-North working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys such as to discuss mutual nuclear inspection which is in a stalemate because of North Korea's unilateral decision to suspend the contact, must first of all be resumed. It was learned that the government is actively examining to work up a plan to propose a South-North contact.

DPRK Reacts to Summit Talks

SK2511123893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1010 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Right after the result of ROK-U.S. summit talks was reported on the afternoon of 24 November, North Korea expressed through Pyongyang radio its dissatisfaction with the fact that no decision had been made on the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise, saying that the Team Spirit exercise can develop into an overall war against the North at any point.

North Korea said that the U.S. imperialists' indiscreet war maneuver caused the grave situation on the Korean peninsula. North Korea called the United States U.S. imperialists, the words that it has controlled to use for a while.

According to ROK Government analysis, after watching the recent ROK-U.S. summit, North Korea must have recognized the reality in which it cannot reach a solution of the nuclear problem through negotiations and pressure on it will increase unless ordinary [tongsang] inspections of its nuclear facilities and South-North dialogue are not held.

Dailies Comment on Summit

SK2511064093

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of editorials and articles from ROK vernacular press published on 24 and 25 November on the ROK-U.S. summit held in Washington from 23 to 24 November.

The moderate daily CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean on 24 November carries a 1,000-word editorial on page 3 entitled "Adjustment of Policies on the North Korean Nuclear Issue During the ROK-U.S. Summit." Noting that the policy on North Korea was "more intensively" discussed than economic issues during the ROK-U.S. summit, the editorial points out that "a final and firm adjustment" was made in ROK and U.S. policies on the North Korean nuclear issue and that the U.S. expression, "thorough and broad approach," is an "appropriate step" because misunderstandings resulting from confusion between North Korea's "package settlement plan" and the U.S. "comprehensive approach" has been completely eliminated. Urging the ROK and U.S. sides not to give again the impression that they have had differences in views in establishing policies against North Korea, the editorial regards the current ROK-U.S. summit as "significant."

The liberal daily TONG-A ILBO in Korean on 25 November publishes on page 1 a 1,200-word article on the U.S. side's "demand for expanded opening" of ROK markets during the recent ROK-U.S. summit, noting that there is worry regarding "increased trade friction" between the two countries due to such a demand. Elaborating the U.S. demands, including abolition of restrictions to foreign investment, expanded opening of financial markets, and protection of intellectual properties, the article refers to President Kim Yong-sam's remarks that "Chongwadae, presidential office, will take the lead in boldly eliminating various regulations that restrict the advance of foreign products" into our country. The article notes that President Kim plans to "thoroughly open the domain of intellectual properties" in addition to "permission for foreigners to possess lands."

TONG-A ILBO in Korean on 25 November published on page 3 a 1,500-word article by Kim Cha-su on "Seoul's View Toward the Result of the Summit." Noting that ROK and the United States reaffirmed "resolute positions" toward the North Korean nuclear issue during the summit, the article reports that despite such an "achievement," the ROK side will likely have to bear a "serious burden" in trade domain, including market opening. Pointing to "exposure of differences in views" between the two sides in the past, the article says the U.S. expression of "thorough and broad efforts" for a final settlement of the North Korean nuclear issue removed "worries" over such differences. Pointing to President Kim's remarks that the ROK has "the right of final decision" on the Team Spirit exercise, the article says his remarks show that "our government has not lost the right of decision on the North Korean nuclear issue." The article reports, however, that the two leaders did not reveal "what issues" will be discussed during the third round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks and "how" they will resolve such problems when North Korea accepts all of these "two preconditions." As a result, there is a possibility that the "differences in positions" of the ROK and U.S. will be again "exposed" when North Korea-U.S. talks are actually held. The article concludes that despite minor differences in views, the current ROK-U.S. summit was "an important occasion for reconfirming the importance of ROK-U.S. friendship and cooperative relations."

TONG-A ILBO in Korean on 25 November publishes on page 3 a 1,000-word editorial entitled "ROK-U.S. Summit and ROK's Share." TONG-A ILBO explains the agreement reached during the ROK and U.S. Summit on "corresponding measures" for North Korea's acceptance of inspection and the North-South dialogue, and points out that of the measures, North-South dialogue is the ROK's "share," while the nuclear inspection issue is the U.S. "share." Stressing that the summit was an occasion of "consolidating the ROK's position" on the North Korean nuclear issue, the editorial says that the ROK's leading role on the issue of the Korean peninsula is "natural." The editorial then defines reconfirmation of the U.S. security commitment to the ROK during the summit as "significant" in many ways, and notes that ROK-U.S. relations will be "even closer" as partners in the new Asian-Pacific era. Pointing to pending economic issues, the editorial stresses that the ROK is no longer the nation "threatening" U.S. markets because ROK trade with the United States is in "adverse balance" and that the "pressure for opening" should be left to a "self-regulating adjustment." The editorial expresses the hope that the U.S. political decision to attach importance to the ROK position be a "practical one" instead of being a "matter of formality."

The conservative daily CHOSON ILBO in Korean on 25 November publishes on page 3 a 1,000-word editorial entitled "ROK-U.S. Adjustment on the North Korean Nuclear Issue." The editorial notes that "misunderstandings" on ROK-U.S. differences in views on the North Korean nuclear issue has been completely removed after the ROK-U.S. summit. The editorial, however, says that the "method" for ensuring transparency of the North Korean nuclear issue was not clarified and that new steps were not likely worked out to deal with North Korea when it does not "comply with inspection." Calling for strengthening the international cooperative system and agreement on the North Korean nuclear issue, the editorial urges the ROK and the United States not to "dream of different things on the same bed" in an effort to resolve the North Korean nuclear problem.

The government-supported SEOUL SINMUN in Korean on 25 November publishes on page 3 a 2,500-word editorial entitled "The North Korean Nuclear Problem Should Be Resolved Broadly and Thoroughly." Noting that President Kim displayed "skillful diplomacy" during his visit to the United States, the editorial hails the ROK-U.S. Summit as an occasion for removing "confusion" in dealing with the North Korean nuclear issue and for showing a firm ROK-U.S. stance. The editorial stresses that President Clinton's "special treatment" of President Kim and Americans' response were "truly friendly."

The moderate daily KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean on 25 November publishes on page 1 a 1,000-word article on the result of a "poll" jointly conducted by KYONGHYANG SINMUN and Continental Research Institute on President Kim's recent diplomatic activities in the United States. The article says that of the total respondents, 75.1 percent replied that President Kim's diplomacy in the United States was "successful," while only 2.4 percent replied "not successful." Concerning the Team Spirit exercise, 75.6 percent of respondents supported a "solution to the nuclear problem first, then suspension of Team Spirit" while 21. 9 supported the suspension of the exercise first, then solution to the nuclear issue.

The moderate daily Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean on 25 November publishes on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Measures for North Korean Nuclear Development Coordinated During ROK-U.S. Summit." The editorial notes that the most notable success attained in the summit talks between President Kim Yong-sam and President Clinton was dissolving differences in views as to how to cope with the North Korean nuclear issue and formulating "the principle of a thorough and broad approach for an ultimate solution." The editorial also notes the diplomatic success on the part of the ROK "by having the opinion of the ROK side substantially reflected in the measures to cope with the North Korean nuclear issue agreed on between the two leaders, thus confirming that the ROK is definitely a concerned party." The editorial then notes: "We should note the fact that although the United States agreed to the ROK side's tough policy insisting on nuclear inspection before any offer of a carrot, the U.S. State Department and the White House aides have not revoked the theory of appeasement. Therefore, there is still a possibility that the United States will push ahead with measures for the resolution of the nuclear issue on its own if the situation refuses to make any progress. Also we still have doubts if the United States will completely disclose to the ROK the particulars of its secret contact with North Korea."

The moderate economic daily Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean on 25 November publishes on page 3 a 900-word editorial entitled "The Options Taken by ROK-U.S. Top Leaders for the Resolution of the North Korean Nuclear Issue." The editorial notes the significance of the ROK-U.S. summit talks, particularly noting the narrowing of the differences between the two countries over measures to cope with the nuclear issue. The editorial then notes: "We, however, are concerned that because the deadline for North Korea to fulfill its obligation was not made clear, North Korea may still undertake to buy time by using more tactics using the nuclear card." The editorial then concludes: "The North Korean nuclear issue is an urgent matter of our concern. However, precautions are necessary so that the many pending economic issues between the ROK and the United States will not be resolved to our disadvantage under the weight of the nuclear issue."

The dissident daily Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean on 25 November publishes on page 3 a 900-word editorial entitled "The Success of the ROK-U.S. Summit Will Be Revealed Later." The editorial notes: "The contents of the summit talks revealed by the leaders of the two countries turn out to be little different from the assertions made by the two countries so far." The editorial then reports: "The result of the ROK-U.S. summit talks leads us to wonder why President Clinton did not disclose a new approach to the North Korean nuclear issue. Immediately before his summit talks with President Kim, President Clinton drew our attention by saying he hoped to declare the initiative after the talks on the North Korean nuclear issue. Although his talks with President Kim lasted longer than scheduled, President Clinton did not put forward a new proposal. We wonder if it became impossible, in the process of discussion with President Kim, for President Clinton to put forth measures for a comprehensive solution. We have stated time and again that a package solution is the only way to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue and that setting a deadline in a hurry will not be of any help to resolve the issue. It is fortunate that the summit talks did not come up with a deadline."

'Broad and Complete Solution'

SK2511002693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Nov 93 p 2

[By Korea Times correspondent Kim Song-pok]

[Text] Washington—The just-ended summit talks between Presidents Kim Yong-sam and Bill Clinton served as an occasion to set straight differences and confusion of ideas and strategies in Washington and Seoul on ways to tackle the North Korean nuclear problem, laying common ground for them to work together with the same aims.

They came out with a new expression, "broad and complete" solution, a terminology which they agreed will replace the easily misunderstood "comprehensive solution."

The new diplomatic rhetoric was a result of Kim's call to prevent any confusion between Washington's comprehensive solution and Pyongyang's "package deal."

About two weeks ago, North Korea proposed a package deal, a scheme to normalize official relations with the United States and have it cancel Team Spirit in return for its agreement to allow international inspectors to its nuclear sites.

The United States, chiefly officials from the State Department, had responded with a negotiation chip, called the comprehensive solution, featuring a phased approach to the nuclear issue: First, the card to Team Spirit cancellation is shown to induce Pyongyang to agree to resume the routine nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Washington and Pyongyang will begin talks to set up diplomatic ties when IAEA special inspections are permitted.

The U.S. strategy had gotten up the nose of Seoul officials who were worried about Pyongyang's faster-than-expected approach to the United States, making adroit use of the "nuclear card."

Chong Chong-uk, senior aide to President Kim, pointed out that the media seemed confused about the clear meaning of the comprehensive solution, which explained to mean "thorough and complete" solution.

However, Kim and Clinton agreed not to use the expression any more. Instead they will use the phrase of "thorough and broad solution," according to Chong.

If Chong's active interpretation of the "comprehensive solution" is correct, the new language does not seem to reflect a get-tough stance by Washington and Seoul.

But, as a matter of fact, it mirrors the strong stand of Seoul. Kim appeared to have displayed his characteristic way of handling difficult issues by standing firm holding on to principle.

He left a strong message that there can be no deal between Washington and Pyongyang without Seoul's participation.

At present, Kim refuses to reveal what is on his mind. But he showed no sign of rushing to a hard-line approach to deal with the North as he and Clinton made it clear that they will not go to the United States for now with the North Korean issue. They said they will orchestrate their efforts with others from the rest of the world to persuade the North to halt its nuclear program.

They also clarified that Team Spirit will not be cancelled because it is unrelated to the North Korean nuclear program.

Reportage on U.S-DPRK Officials' Meeting

Contact Held 24 Nov at UN

SK2411224993 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2204 GMT 24 Nov 93

[AP/YONHAP from New York]

[Text] One day after President Clinton suggested a new proposal to make a breakthrough in North Korea's nuclear issue, officials from North Korea and the United States on 24 November held a contact at UN Headquarters.

It has been learned that Ho Chong, deputy chief to the United Nations, participated as a North Korean representative and Mike Newlin, assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs, is said to have participated as a U.S. representative, although it has not been officially confirmed. The contact lasted about an hour.

Ho Chong, in an interview with AP News Agency, said he cannot be specific about the contact until he explains the content to his government and receives some sort of order from the government.

Mike McCurry, U.S. State Department spokesman, in a daily news briefing, said that the United States is planning to make a contact with North Korean working-level officials in regard to the nuclear issue, which has been dealt with at the ROK-U.S. summit and the Seattle meeting.

DPRK's UN Envoy 'Optimistic'

SK2511012493 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0105 GMT 25 Nov 93

[AFP/YONHAP Report from UN Headquarters]

[Text] Pak Kil-yon, North Korean ambassador to the United Nations, said that North Korea thinks that complications [punkyu] pertaining to the North Korean nuclear issue will be resolved very soon.

After the working-level contact between North Korean and U.S. officials in New York on the North Korean nuclear issue, Ambassador Pak said that although he cannot reveal the result of talks in detail, he is optimistic about the situation and said that the problem will be solved soon.

DPRK 'Expected' To Accept Conditions

SK2611025393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0241 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—U.S. and North Korean scientists have met three times this year, in Beijing, New York and Pyongyang, to discuss the technical aspects of nuclear inspections, Japan's YOMIURI SHIMBUN said Friday.

The United States and North Korea are likely to agree on a special inspection of unreported nuclear facilities near Yongbyon suspected of being part of North Korea's nuclear program when they resume high-level talks, the newspaper quoted a source well versed in affairs involving the two countries as saying.

Since North Korea's aim in connection with the nuclear issue is to keep up its establishment and get Kim Chong-il's succession to the reins of power guaranteed, the source reportedly said, Pyongyang is expected to accept the two conditions for solving the nuclear problem set in Tuesday's Seoul-Washington summit.

"Of the two conditions, resumption of talks between Seoul and Pyongyang, can easily be accepted. What matters is special inspection, which North Korea refuses," the source said.

"They could reach a compromise in which South Korea and the United States conduct a substantive inspection on behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) so that Pyongyang will save face and Seoul and Washington will make practical gains," the source said.

IAEA To Meet 2 Dec To Discuss DPRK Issue

SK2511071693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors will meet next week and the North Korean nuclear issue will be on the agenda, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

The Board convenes Dec. 2-3 at its Vienna headquarters for a regular meeting, which is usually limited to discussing technical nuclear cooperation matters.

But the Board has included North Korea's safeguards issue on the agenda this time and will hear reports on the status of IAEA inspections, the officials said.

It is item five of six topics up for discussion, they said.

Member states will deliver their positions on the issue during the meeting.

North Korea and the United States met in New York on Wednesday and officials in Seoul expect Pyongyang to decide soon, possibly before next week's Board meeting, whether to allow inspections.

U.S. State Department Official Cited on DPRK

SK2511051793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0502 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Washington, Nov. 24 (YONHAP)—The United States is willing to talk to North Korea in more broad and thorough terms, putting more emphasis on "the carrot aspect" of their discussions, Winston Lord, assistant U.S. secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said Wednesday.

If North Korea chooses the other aspect, the stick, it will face increasing isolation, as U.S. President Bill Clinton said, Lord told Cable News Network (CNN) in an interview.

Lord made the remark when he was asked what was the new approach Clinton was talking about following his meeting with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam at the White House Tuesday.

Lord was reminded that a general consensus in the U.S. Capital was that there was no new approach and that it was largely a reiteration of what had been on the table before.

"It's the same approach in a sense," Lord admitted. "Namely, we have the same objectives we've had since this crisis began several months ago—a nonnuclear Korean peninsula and a strong international nonproliferation regime.

"It's also consistent in that in order to have a third round of talks with North Korea, we must see them talking to the South, and we must see them dealing meaningfully with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)," he said.

Asked the outcome of a working-level contact with North Korea in New York on Wednesday, Lord said it was too early to judge whether the dialogue was moving toward a point of satisfaction on the part of the United States.

"We have to see what happens," he said.

Pressed whether the North Koreans gave indication that they are willing to talk to the South Koreans again, he said, "we hope so. They have been talking about modalities in recent weeks."

Lord disagreed with well-known analyst William Taylor, who suggested that the Clinton administration should make a unilateral gesture canceling the Team Spirit military exercise and offering recognition of North Korea's communist regime.

"There are other observers who think we ought to be harder and go right to the United Nations," Lord said.

"Frankly, we think we're about right, and that's reflected in almost total congressional support, wide media support, and most importantly the support of the international community," he said.

"We have not taken a step without South Korea and Japan, among others, right with us all the way on the tactics," he added.

Foreign Minister Interview on APEC, U.S. Summit

SK2511130993 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1212 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Interview with ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu by anchorman Yi Yun-song; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Yi Yun-song] How are you Minister Han? The president's schedule was very tight. Because the schedule was tight, I heard, great achievements were brought about during the visit. What were our achievements from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] and the ROK-U.S. summit talks?

[Han Sung-chu] The APEC talks were the first summit talks held in the Asia-Pacific region. President Kim Yong-sam played a central role in the meeting in tying Asia and North America closer, deciding to hold another summit, and institutionalizing APEC. In particular, the president presented visions on the 21st century of the Asia-Pacific region, which greatly impressed other countries.

During the summit talks in Washington, the two leaders discussed overall relations between the ROK and the United States and concerning the nuclear issue in particular confirmed the previous agreements reached by the two countries and firmly agreed on what to do in the future.

[Yi] As you have said, concerning the North Korean nuclear issue in particular the ROK and the United States agreed on a clear position that calls for a thorough and wide approach. It has been reported that the United States informed North Korea of this approach after the summit talks. When do you think will be the deadline for North Korea's acceptance of this approach?

[Han] A thorough approach means ensuring North Korea's nuclear transparency and removing North Korea's nuclear suspicions. A wide approach means using all means. I know that on 24 November in New York, the United States informed North Korea of what would happen if North Korea does not cooperate in resolving the nuclear issue and what would happen if it cooperates.

[Yi] As everybody knows, diplomacy does not work if one side unilaterally demands. We heard the United States made many demands concerning the ROK's opening up. What are they?

[Han] Concerning the nuclear issue, the notion that the United States made concessions because we demanded is not true; because the two countries have common interests concerning this issue, there was no give-and-take deal. Concerning the economic issue, we agreed on such general principles as the satisfactory conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the opening up of world markets. There were no negotiations on special issues. Therefore, the summit talks were not give-and-take talks but talks in which the two countries confirmed their common interests and tried to find ways for the future.

[Yi] Thank you.

[Han] Thank you.

French Daily: U.S. Develops New DPRK Policy

SK2511030793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Paris, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—The United States, in the wake of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting and a visit to Washington by South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, has formulated a new approach to Pyongyang to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue, LE MONDE reported Thursday.

In a front-page article, the authoritative French daily said that the U.S. Government has adopted a policy of holding bilateral or multilateral dialogue with Pyongyang in a switch from diplomatic confrontation at the United Nations or even a consideration of military action.

U.S. President Bill Clinton readjusted his North Korean policy, which had been drifting in the past, following his meetings with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Korean President Kim, LE MONDE said in a Tokyo-datelined article.

Especially, a recent improvement in U.S.-China relations must have encouraged the Chinese leadership to play an active role in exercising its influence over North Korea, for whom Beijing is the only remaining ally, the daily said.

Although China, South Korea and Japan have slightly differing opinions on the developments resulting from the North Korean nuclear issue, none of them wish to see North Korea possess nuclear weapons as that could destabilize their region, it said.

South Korea, China and Japan are also well aware that North Korean President Kim Il-song and his son are waging "a struggle of survival of their system," which is faced with isolation from the world community and a severe economic crisis, LE MONDE said.

Potential for nuclear weapons development is the only means for their survival, LE MONDE said. But it would be difficult for North Korea to use this so-called "nuclear card," the newspaper predicted.

If the suspected development of nuclear weapons by North Korea turns out to be true, it will not only invite sanctions that would worsen social conditions, but also preventive measures from the United States.

If, on the other hand, the suspicion turns out to be untrue, North Korea will become "a naked king" whose collapse is just a matter of time, LE MONDE said.

The only hope for the North Korean leaders to survive is that none of South Korea, China, Japan, and other countries in the area want to see North Korea collapse as it would bring enormous problems to them, it said.

"Starting a war is the final option for North Korea, but it would be a suicidal action," the newspaper said.

Government Said To Hint at Rice Market Opening

SK2611010293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0054 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea indicated for the first time Thursday that it may open its rice market, but on condition that the Uruguay Round [UR] is concluded by Dec. 15.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sinhaeng told reporters that the government has not changed its position that it cannot open Korea's rice market, but that if there is agreement in the Uruguay Round talks by the Dec. 15 deadline it will reexamine its position.

Seoul is reviewing the "Japan formula" for conditional opening, Ministry sources said. Assistant Minister Kim Kwang-hui went to Japan on Thursday to learn more about the Japanese plans for rice market opening.

Korea's conditions will include a 10-year grace period before tariffication, they said. Seoul will accept minimum market access during that period and allow up to 2 percent opening the first year, approximately 680,000 sok (1 sok equals 144 kilograms) by 1992 figures.

Korea would have allowed up to 3.3 percent by the last year of the grace period.

This would be slower that the Japan formula, which reportedly asks for a six-year grace period with market access starting at 4 percent and rising to 8 percent by the end of the period.

The officials said Dec. 15 is not a deadline for the negotiations but for all involved parties to reach a basic agreement.

Once the basic agreement is found, Korea will start bilateral negotiations with other UR members. Talks for rice market opening will be with major agricultural exporting nations, most heavily with the United States, officials said.

Ministry Denies Conditional Opening

SK2611025893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] In connection with a report on the examination of possible conditional opening of the rice market, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry stated on 26 November that such a report is not true.

In a document refuting such a report to the various media, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry said that as far as the opening of the rice market is concerned, there is no change in the government's basic position that it cannot allow tariffs, as well as a minimum market approach. The Ministry also stated that Kim Kwang-hui's, assistant minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, visit to Japan is only to learn more about the Japanese plans for rice market opening. The Ministry added that his visit to Japan has no relation with the possible examination of the opening of the rice market.

Aide Denies Opening Discussed

SK2611065093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0640 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—A senior presidential aide denied Friday that President Kim Yong-sam had discussed the opening of South Korea's market to imported rice with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

At an expanded summit following one-on-one talks in the White House on Tuesday, the U.S. side "highly evaluated" Korea's efforts to open its financial and rice markets and to ease restrictions on imports, the official said.

With regard to the need for concluding the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, including the problem of opening the farm market, President Kim told the U.S. side that "our basic position is to successfully conclude the negotiations within this year," said the official, who accompanied the president.

"President Kim, however, made it clear that since specific circumstances and programs are different from country to country, trade liberalization will have to be settled in the way that takes into consideration the national interest of a particular nation," the official said.

He said the two sides spent only about five minutes talking about economic issues at the expanded summit.

Aside from the summit, the question of opening Korea's market for foreign rice had not been raised in working-level talks, the official said, requesting anonymity.

He made the comment after the main opposition Democratic Party [DP] demanded that the government disclose details of the Kim-Clinton summit.

Earlier, the DP convened a senior party officials meeting, presided over by chairman Yi Ki-taek, to discuss problems of a reported U.S. demand for the opening of Korea's financial and service industries, its rice market and protection of intellectual property.

The DP decided to stage a pan-national campaign with farmers and opposition organizations if the government pushes a plan to open the market for rice.

At the same time, opposition party lawmakers will meet at the National Assembly Saturday to discuss problems related to opening of the rice market.

Minister 'Vehemently' Denies Report

SK2611075293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng vehemently denied Friday that South Korea is considering partial rice market opening.

"As far as I know, there was absolutely no concession nor even discussion of the rice issue at the summit between Presidents Kim Yong-sam and Bill Clinton," the minister told a National Assembly committee hearing.

"I believe there is no change to President Kim's will against any rice market opening," he said.

The Korean media was filled with stories Friday that Seoul is about to allow market opening, on conditions similar to those set by Japan.

They said Seoul will accept tariffication after 10 years and allow minimum market access in the meantime of 2 percent to 3.3 percent.

"There can be no discussion or negotiation on the rice issue without the agriculture minister's knowledge under a civilian government that is pledged to democracy," Ho said.

The government had never considered tariffication or minimum market access and has no intention of doing so, he said.

Keeping the rice market closed was one of Kim's pledges when he was campaigning for the presidency.

Opposition lawmakers have charged that if Kim does decide to break this promise, he and Ho will have to resign for it.

The committee plans to reconvene on Saturday or Sunday, after confirming the president's intention, to address the matter again.

Analysis: 'Seoul Wavers' on Rice

SK2611085093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0829 GMT 26 Nov 93

["Seoul Wavers in Its Desperate Efforts To Keep Rice Market Shut" by So Hae-song]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—A taboo has been broken. Politicians and government officials in South Korea are publicly, if somewhat timorously, discussing the "possibility" of rice market opening.

The Dec. 15 deadline for conclusion of the Uruguay Round is just 20 days away, and the multimillion-dollar question is what answer Korea will have for the world when "judgement day" comes.

Seoul had been firm and bold in repeating "no" on rice, but officials and experts always had doubts at the bottom of their hearts that they are only now showing.

The leaders of member countries of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), including Korean President Kim Yong-sam, have committed themselves to conclusion of the long-stalled talks on a trade liberalization pact this year.

The phrase that Kim used several times during his stay in United States this week and on his return home is "Let's get internationalized," but this is far easier said than done for Korea considering the high price it may have to pay to ride the international current.

The press is already painting a picture of the aftermath of rice market opening, and farmers are flocking to Seoul for street protests against the government for letting them down.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng was firmly equivocal on Thursday, saying that the government is unchanged in its firm opposition to rice market opening but will have to re-examine its position if all other countries agree to liberalization in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

Korea has become the odd one out on the liberalization of rice trade since Japan succumbed to mounting international pressure, moving to agree to tariffication after a six-year grace period.

"We will do our best to stand by our rice market till the very last moment, but if our sole ally, Japan, turns to an open policy, we have to take appropriate countermeasures," Ho said.

Painful as it may have been, the government has come to accept reality and is carefully weighing two forms of market opening: Tariffs equal to the difference between domestic and international rice prices, and Minimum Market Access (MMA), which sets a quota for imports.

Some in the government say that if Korea is going to open its rice market eventually, it had better notify the United States and GATT quickly to improve the country's international image.

Seoul's persuasions and arguments have been cut short by the firm stand of "no exception to tariffication of agriculture sector" taken by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

If Korea sticks to a "no rice" policy after the conclusion of a global trade accord, GATT commissioners warn, it will be ostracized by the international community and find itself in a trade war with the advanced countries.

Hardliners say the outlook is as dark as it is bright, and argue that Seoul should not take out the white flag just yet.

The United States and France-led members of the European Community are still very much at odds over the 1992 Blair House agreement on reduction of farm subsidies.

The transatlantic dispute shows no sign of diminishing as it finds stumbling blocks at every corner, such as the EC-proposed multilateral trade organization.

Tokyo is said to have decided on surrendering its rice market with a six-year grace period, but it faces internal friction as members of the Socialist Party threaten to leave the coalition government.

What Korea anticipates is a "small package," an alternative to the multilateral pact that excludes controversial items so that the rice issue can be shelved until another round. In this case, Seoul hopes it can buy time for rice, beef, barley and pepper.

Clinging to a straw, it hopes that Washington makes concessions on farm subsidies if its dispute with the EC continues till next month's deadline and allows exceptions in "tariffication without exception on agriculture."

A U.S.-EC agreement on farm subsidies and the signing of an agreement on tariffication without exception on Dec. 15 by all 116 countries will be checkmate for Korea. Seoul will have to negotiate the extent of opening until the draft is signed by ministers next April.

Under this scenario, Korea would open with imports of up to 3.3 percent of its rice consumption from 1995 to 2001, or 97,920 tons in the first year and 1.58 million tons by 2001.

This would have little effect on the farming industry, compared with this year's reduction of 4.29 million tons in the harvest and the reserve of 18.72 million tons in government storehouses.

After that it may accept tariffication from 2004 with a 10-year grace period and, in reality, once the market opens advanced nations are likely to ask for wider access.

The government will argue that it cannot match the U.S.-Japan pact as conditions are far different from Japan, which has agreed to 4-percent to 8-percent MMA and tariffication after six years.

With rice liberalization, it can no longer subsidize farmers by purchasing set amounts of rice but may acquire 10 percent of their output for reserve.

Experts forecast a plunge in Korean rice prices, which are six times higher than foreign prices, and collapse of the industry, accelerating an exodus from the countryside and having multiple unnamed ill effects on the economy.

Rice production is worth 7 trillion won (8.6 billion U.S. dollars) a year and accounts for 3.1 percent of the Gross National Product, while the share is just 0.6 percent in Japan.

Rice farming provides 13.4 percent of total employment in Korea and rice is the primary source of income for farmers. Opening the rice market will be fatal, but they hope the government does its best.

Kim Yong-sam Reportedly 'Evasive'

SK2611090793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0848 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam assured the leader of the three branches of government Friday that he did not agree to open South Korea's rice market during his summit talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, but not everyone was convinced.

"Although Korea piles up a trade surplus of 200 million U.S. dollars with the United States, our two-way trade is balanced and there is no trade friction," he told Democratic Liberal Party Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil, Democratic Party Chairman Yi Ki-taek, National Assembly Speaker Yi Man-sop, Chief Justice Yun Kwan, and Prime Minister Hwang In-song over lunch as he reported on his nine-day visit to the United States.

Asked by Yi Ki-taek about press reports of some kind of Seoul-Washington agreement on rice market opening in the summit, Kim said the reporters were mistaken.

"We touched slightly on economic issues during the expanded summit meeting, and the U.S. side brought up the issue of lowering restrictions that block trade and investment in Korea for a minute or so," he said.

Kim told his lunch guests that he was convinced that Korea and the United States can closely cooperate on the basic principles of democracy and market economy, and assured that agricultural issues, including rice, were not discussed in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) either, Presidential Spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said.

Hwang pointed out that intellectual property rights, rice and other farm imports are related to the Uruguay Round negotiations.

"The government's basic position is to make efforts to conclude the UR this year for internationalization and openness, but then it maintains that rice must be made exception in view of the unique situation of Korea," Hwang said.

Although it is contradictory to call for UR conclusion while opposing rice market opening, Korea's rice dependency must be taken into account, a presidential aide said.

Opposition leader Yi told reporters after the lunch that he was not fully satisfied with Kim's assurances of a consistent rice policy but had the impression that the answer is still "no" on foreign rice.

"I asked for an explanation on rice market opening as the public is confused over the press reporting imminent market opening while the government continues to deny," Yi said. "The president just said there will be no such thing, but he did not elaborate."

It appeared from his tone, Yi said, that Kim was being evasive, but added that he wanted to believe that the president was sincere.

Post-APEC 'U.S. Trade Pressure' Examined

SK2611105093

[Editorial Report] Seoul vernacular daily newpapers on 26 November carry editorials and articles on "U.S. trade pressure" to expand the opening of ROK markets at the recent U.S.-ROK summit held in Washington, D.C. on 23-24 November.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,200-word editorial entitled "We Look Forward to the Effects of the President's Visit to the United States." Assessing President Kim Yong-sam's activities during the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting and in the United States as "successful," the editorial stresses that "sagacious reflection" of what he has seen and felt during his trip in "domestic policies" is an important task assigned him. Referring to a report that "fierce U.S. trade pressure will rush toward us," the editorial notes that "fostering our economic competitiveness" is important in view of the "stark nature of international economic theory." The editorial then stresses that now is the time for the state to leave "what civilian enterprises can do in international competition" in the hands of enterprises themselves and calls on the president to "boldly push for this work" and to carry out "higher-stage reform" for ROK existence and prosperity.

The moderate daily HANGUK ILBO in Korean publishes on page 3 a 1,200-word editorial entitled "Cold Waves Called 'Trade Pressure'." The editorial points out that while people pay attention to the "achievements" of the APEC leaders' meeting, we must realize that there is "a new problem which will appear before us in the very near future," noting this problem is "trade pressure" from the United States. Stating that the current APEC meeting attained the "results that the Clinton administration in the United States wanted to gain," the editorial refers to President Clinton's remarks that U.S. trade policy is "aimed at opening markets in Asia" and that "the most dynamic U.S. export markets are in the Asia-Pacific region." The editorial then predicts that the Clinton administration "will strengthen the pressure to open markets on each nation in East Asia." The editorial notes that the rice issue will work as the "most serious pressure" to us during Uruguay Round (UR) negotiations. The editorial stresses that although the recent APEC leaders' meeting gave the "hope for economic cooperation" in the Asia-Pacific region from a long-range point of view, it gave the ROK in turn "a heavy burden called market opening," defining it as "a grave challenge." The editorial concludes that "we will watch the government's more candid countermeasures."

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean carries on page 3 a 1,100-word editorial entitled "Diplomatic Achievements Should Be Reflected in Domestic Policies." Pointing to the "remarkable diplomatic success" attained by President Kim Yong-sam during his visit to the United States and to the ROK's "enhanced international position," the editorial urges the adequate reflection of President Kim's diplomatic achievements in "domestic politics" to ensure "a foundation of agreement" by all people. Calling on the government to remove "discords and confusion in policies" within its offices and agencies, the editorial stresses that the government and ruling party should "boldly abolish restrictions that need to be lifted" and should "make concession of what should be conceded" so that "economic and political international competitiveness" can be raised.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 5 a 2,000-word article by reporter Chong Chong-sok entitled "Trade Pressure on the ROK That Becomes Fiercer Again—the U.S. Demand for Expanding Openness and Our Countermeasures." Noting that during President Kim's visit, the United States demanded the "early expansion" of financial and service markets in the ROK, the article says that President Clinton appears to be "greatly encouraged" by having taken the "leading role" in APEC and that such "strengthened external influence" by the United States has developed into "trade pressure on the ROK." Describing pressure on opening the rice market as a "serious" problem, the article writes that in the event that the UR negotiations are settled, the opening of the rice market will become "an established fact" regardless of the ROK government's intention.

The article explains that the ROK will have to either accept the opening of the rice markets or "withdraw" from the UR in the event that the ROK demand for an exception is turned down by UR members. Stressing that withdrawal from the UR will cause "isolation from the international trade system," the article urges solution to trade and commercial problems raised among all nations through "bilateral negotiations," instead of "multilateral negotiations." Criticizing the ROK Government's position that the opening of the rice market "absolutely cannot be accepted" as "stiff," the article explains details of U.S. demands, including the protection of intellectual properties, and says that the ROK is faced with "urgent tasks" to cope with the trend of internationalization. Noting that the issue of opening the rice market is "squeezing our necks" like a "time bomb," the article says that the decision on the rice issue "can no longer be dragged on" because President Kim promised President Clinton that he will "actively cooperate" so that the UR negotiations can be "settled." Pointing to Japan's decision to open rice markets after a certain period of "postponement," the article notes that "it is very difficult for the ROK to counter U.S. pressure alone."

The article then refers to remarks by trade experts that "the ROK should try to postpone the opening of the rice market as long as possible and should narrow the scope of the opening through bilateral negotiations with the United States" so that damage to ROK farmers can be reduced to the minimum.

Nation Urged To Change Market Opening Attitude

SK2611122593 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 26 Nov 93 p 3

[Editorial: "The Market Opening is Very imminent"]

[Text] It seems that the United States will earnestly pressure South Korea to open markets. The United States always puts pressure on South Korea regarding trade, but this time it is likely to put stronger pressure on the latter on the occasion of the ROK-U.S. summit talks. U.S. pressure is expected to be very broad and indiscriminative. In this respect, it is very serious. Such U.S. pressure was expected before, because we could expect that the issues of the ROK's external responsibility and of its market opening would be discussed during a meeting of the APEC leaders and the ROK-U.S. summit talks.

Furthermore, the additional opening of ROK markets, including rice, can no longer be delayed, because the deadline for the compromise of the Uruguay Round negotiations is set before the end of next month.

The opening and liberalization of markets are the great trends in the global economic system in which the internationalization of economic activities is being rapidly accelerated even though we put aside the pressure by the United States or other foreign countries. It is a stern reality that no country can join a free trade system nor exist if it runs counter to the trends of the times; that is, the so-called opening of markets, internationalization, and liberalization. I believe, therefore, that now is the time to change our attitude toward the pressure of the market opening and trade conflict and to see them in a new light.

It is true that U.S. pressure to open markets is very shocking because it includes everything, ranging from the relaxation of administrative regulations in banking and service markets to the opening of agricultural markets, including rice. It is not easy to practically and concretely open markets as demanded by the United States when we look closely into the said items one by one.

Furthermore, the opening of agricultural products is the most political and is a pressing issue for our people because it is directly related to the life-or-death problems of our farmers. Not only rice, which is our major grain, but also other agricultural products, which include ten basic agricultural items, are much less competitive. When we open markets, it is very likely that the domestic market foundation itself will collapse. It is therefore not easy to open the market.

The government has officially and consistently adhered to a policy of not opening the rice market, but the problem is that we cannot avoid the pressure to open our markets, including agricultural markets, even though we want to avoid it, and that we cannot block it even though we desperately need to oppose it.

It is certain that we will be isolated from the international community if we only want to keep our markets. The government and our people must hurry in adapting themselves to an era of market opening and an era of internationalization. It is not the attitude of responsible officials concerned to just read farmers' minds by unconditionally referring to the no-open-markets-policy, while knowing that it is impossible not to open the markets. The government must formulate practical measures to soundly develop our rural communities and economy in the era of internationalization by minimizing their damages.

'Tense' Situation Cited in Missile Purchases

SK2511025893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea is to purchase 474 air-to-air missiles this year, the Defense Ministry announced Thursday [25 November].

The Ministry said that 190 are modern medium-range missiles and 284 are short-range missiles.

The purchase is part of a project to maintain fire power.

Initially, the Ministry was to buy the medium-range missiles in 1996 and short-range ones in 1995-96, but it moved forward the purchase in view of the tense security situation on the Korean peninsula.

Kim Yong-sam Speaks on Return From U.S.

SK2511092893 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0824 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Speech by ROK President Kim Yong-sam at Seoul Airport upon his return to Seoul from the APEC summit and talks with President Clinton in the United States—live]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen: I have safely returned from my first overseas visit after my inauguration as president.

Though mine was a short, eight-night-nine-day visit, I tell my fellow countrymen that I have returned after putting down the deep roots of a new Korea in the world.

The economic meeting among the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] held in Seattle means the successful start of the Asia-Pacific era. This was the first hopeful step toward establishing an Asia-Pacific Community that pursues common prosperity through opening up and cooperation. This region will be a center stage that will lead world history. I think the leadership role [chudojok yokhal] which the ROK played at the start of this Asia-Pacific community should give you, my fellow countrymen, great pride.

The ROK's position in the world has changed greatly. This is not merely because of our economic strength; this is because the painful road toward democracy—which has ultimately led to a civilian government—and the reforms based on a moral sense have won world recognition. The people's enthusiasm and support for democracy were the engine of our achievements.

The leaders of various countries who attended the APEC meeting saw and expressed good will toward the ROK with respect. During the APEC meeting, I had meaningful and beneficial separate talks with the top leaders of China, Canada, and Australia. In particular, during the first talks between President Jiang Zemin and me, I have come to firmly believe that the ROK and China can become closer neighbors.

Dear fellow countrymen:

I paid my first official visit to Washington and opened a new beginning for ROK-U.S. relations.

The second round of summit talks between U.S. President Clinton and I, which were held on 2 July, served as a bridge over the Pacific Ocean that connects the minds of the two countries' people. It was a gallant [tangdang], equal [taedung], and horizontal [supyongjok] bridge.

I and President Clinton have agreed that the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue must no longer be delayed [toisang chiche toeosonun andoenda]. We have reaffirmed our commitment that the two countries will closely cooperate to completely resolve this issue. Moreover, I consider as very important the agreement by the two countries that a final decision on the North Korean nuclear issue, which is vital to the existence of the 70 million fellow countrymen, should be made with our participation [urisonul kochoya].

President Clinton made clear that it would be impossible to reduce U.S. troops before the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved. He strongly reconfirmed the steadfast U.S. defense commitment to the ROK's security.

Dear fellow countrymen, I received warm greetings from our compatriots who live in the United States which came from the bottom of their heart. Thanks to the emergence of the civilian government, the Korean society in the United States—which was separated—is being united as one in harmony.

I delivered a warm greeting from you, fellow countrymen, to our compatriots there and explained to them the remarkable change taking place in the aspect of the fatherland in an era of civilian-controlled government. Also, I asked them to be masters of the United States and to be proud U.S. citizens with the dignity of Koreans.

Dear fellow countrymen, during my recent overseas trip, I have reconfirmed that the world is changing at a remarkable speed. To adapt to the change, all countries throughout the world are pursuing reforms. I keenly felt, however, that our changes and reforms are moving ahead of those trends, and that they should not be stopped nor delayed.

I believe that the direction and goals of the development of our state, which wants to move forward in the world and the future by strengthening our state competitiveness, are correct.

The world highly praises the changed aspects of our country. I received warm greetings and hospitality wherever I went. I believe that all of these are the power and pride of our people.

Our country is now emerging to be a kingpin [chungsim] country that leads the Asia-Pacific era. Our people possess this much boundless potential. Now, we have to open the door and advance toward the world. We have to open the door, with confidence, and meet the world. Internationalization and globalization is a great trend of this age. In order to make the ROK become a country that leads the trend, we have to change ourselves first. Our way of thinking and acting must be changed. We must elevate the levels of our systems, morals, information, knowledge, technology, and productivity in accordance with the internationalized world.

All the people must prepare themselves in their work places, classrooms, and homes to meet a new era. With open hearts, all of us must greet the world and work harder. Let us go toward a wide world and a bright future. This is my call to you, fellow countrymen, upon returning home.

Thank you.

JCS on NEWSWEEK Report on DPRK's Capability

SK2611022393 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 26 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] The Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS] on 25 November flatly rejected the recent NEWSWEEK report that "in case a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, North Korea will occupy Seoul in a week or two." The JCS said that "the NEWSWEEK assertion is illogical and absurd in view of the present ROK-U.S. combined defense strategy."

Lieutenant Colonel Kim Su-hyon, JCS's working level military strategist, in an article he contributed to KUKJONG SINMUN, wrote: "The capability of responding to war in its initial stage by the ROK Forces, the U.S. Forces in the ROK, the rapid deterrent forces (FDO) [acronym as published], which will be deployed beforehand, and the U.S. reinforcement forces in case a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula is appraised to be strong enough to stop the North Korean Army's surprise attack in the initial stage of war. Therefore, the North Korean attack will be stopped and annihilated north of the Seoul metropolitan area, thereby enabling us to wage a counterattack within a short period of time."

Kim Yong-sam Accepts Yi Tong-pok's Resignation

SK2611080793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0722 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 26 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam accepted Yi Tong-pok's resignation as special assistant to the director of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) on Friday.

Yi, a former Seoul-side spokesman for the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, had submitted his resignation when controversy flared over his alleged concealment of a presidential order during a South-North Korean meeting in September last year.

The NSP said it expects all details of the case to be revealed through a probe by the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI).

DP Lawmakers Visit Korean Federation in Japan

SK2511093693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0850 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 25 (YONHAP)—Rep. Kim Sang-houn of the opposition Democratic Party [DP] visited the headquarters of Chochongnyon, the pro-Pyongyang federation of Korean residents in Japan, here in Tokyo on Thursday.

He was the first South Korean public official ever to visit the pro-North Korean organization.

Kim, who talked to Federation Vice Chairman So Man-sol for about one hour and 20 minutes, said that he visited Chochongnyon in an effort to help foster an atmosphere for dialogue and put an end to the Cold War confrontation between pro-Seoul and pro-Pyongyang Korean residents in Japan.

So told Kim that all Korean people, no matter whether they live in South or North Korea or Japan, have only one wish, reunification of their country.

"From the standpoint of Chochongnyon, it is very important for South Korea to repeal the national security law, which impedes reunification," So said.

Kim said that the DP is pushing for repeal of the law, urging Chochongnyon to promote exchanges with Mindan, a pro-Seoul organization of Korean residents in Japan.

Kim was accompanied to the call by Reps. Kim Chang-kon and Pak Chong-hun both of the Democratic Party. Following the visit, they also called on Choson College run by Chochongnyon.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Invites Rebels To Join Government

BK2511161293 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Nov 93

["Excerpts" of speech by Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, SLORC, at a meeting with responsible personnel in Ye, Mon State, on 25 November—recorded]

[Text] We bring good news on our visit to Mon State today. We invite the armed organizations in the jungles to return quickly to the legitimate fold after considering the goodwill of the government. Come and join with us in fostering honesty and genuine goodwill for national reconciliation and work for the development of the state, of the region, and of the national races. I believe development will be achieved markedly within three to four years.

Our invitation now is for the reconciliation of the national races and to defend and safeguard the three national causes: perpetuation of national sovereignty, nondisintegration of national solidarity, and nondisintegration of the union. We will work for the emergence of a new democratic state, which everybody wants, after safeguarding the national objectives. Our invitation is extended with goodwill to show how we will work for the development of the national races. Join us if you all understand our invitation and have the basic belief to work for successful development according to your aims and objectives. Surely, you will all join together. We are extending our invitation with genuine goodwill. We have no malicious thoughts. We are all brothers. We are all family in a large house where we—elder brother, elder sister, younger sister, and younger brother—all live in love and unity. If we all live like this, it will be a very pleasant house. Moreover, the Union of Myanmar [Burma] is a union of all national races. Just like the large house, the value of the gross domestic product and services, which reached 10.9 percent in 1992 under SLORC, will surely improve if all of the national races in the Union live in love, unity, and harmony, and work together for better or for worse, with the right attitude, conviction, and honesty. It will really develop more than this. For this reason our brothers from the armed organizations in the jungle should accept fully our invitation with the correct attitude and conviction and come to us. I extend the invitation from here with honesty and genuine goodwill. Our invitation is not extended because of a difficult situation. We make this invitation because we do not have any malicious thoughts and attitudes. There is no political impasse. We do not have any economic or military difficulties. The invitation is extended to our brothers with genuine goodwill for national reconciliation to continue to develop the country. Our SLORC military government has done what we have said and has accomplished what we planned to do. Look back at all we have done over the past five years and decide if what we did was right or wrong. The entire populace should think, reflect, and offer their opinion.

The world knows what I am saying. Foreign newspaper publishers have recorded what I am saying now and the BBC and VOA will broadcast it. What is more official than that? This invitation is an official invitation. Come and join us with the union spirit and patriotism and work together for the development of the Union, state, and the national races. Armed organizations should accept our invitation as soon as possible for the development of the country, seeing themselves as responsible organizations, and come and confer with us quickly. Respond to our invitation at the earliest instance after carefully considering the goodwill and sincerity of the defense services. On behalf of the SLORC, I officially, sincerely, frankly, and with genuine goodwill extend this invitation. This is the end of my speech.

Mon Party Votes for Talks; KIO Sees Truce

BK2611013593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] The New Mon State Party, a member of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), has voted to open truce talks with the military junta in Rangoon, an informed Burmese rebel source revealed yesterday.

The source said that despite opposition from party chairman Nai Shwe Kyin and other members, the majority voted in favour of negotiating with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to end the decades-long armed struggle.

The vote was taken about two weeks ago at the party's headquarters in Kanchanaburi Province, which borders Burma, the source said.

The source added that conditions for negotiations have not been set yet and it would be some time before the truce talks could be held.

Meanwhile, the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) said their ceasefire talks with SLORC since the beginning of this year had progressed to the point where a nation-wide ceasefire is possible if all combatants are willing to come to the negotiating table.

The KIO's position paper obtained yesterday by the BANGKOK POST said the group believes that political issues cannot be solved on the battlefield, but on the negotiating table.

"It is the position of the KIO that national peace and reconciliation is not possible without further dialogue and negotiations between all parties engaged in the conflict which in turn is not possible without a nation-wide ceasefire," said the rebel group.

The group insisted that it was committed to bringing an end to the civil war in Burma and to promoting the issue of democracy and respect for human rights.

The rebel organisation said it believes that longstanding political issues that have been the cause of civil war should be properly resolved with the full and active participation in the political process by all the people of Burma.

The KIO, however, maintained that it still supports the struggle for political rights of the other ethnic nationalities and the struggle for democracy in Burma.

"Thus, the KIO will continue to maintain relations with fellow opposition parties and national political organisations striving for unity and national reconciliation in Burma," it said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Editorial Welcomes Clinton's Views on EAEC

BK2611102893 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Nov 93 p 12

[Editorial: "Is a No Opposition Stance a Yes?"]

[Text] Fear paralyses and breeds hostility, suspicion and mistrust spawns paranoia. In the case of the U.S., its uncertain economic future has engendered much fear, some legitimate and some a plain case of hysteria. Another source of fear, perhaps fear of waning prestige, for the country that was at one time an economic dynamo lighting up the rest of the world is the extraordinary growth of East Asian countries—the four dragons and Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. That its economic preeminence is being eroded is no longer a false assumption.

Such is the fear that has gripped the nation that is so used to having things done her way. That the status quo is changing and her economic security may not necessarily constitute the paramount interest in any forum, group, caucus, or assembly have coloured her reactions in many instances—the deadlock in its negotiations with the European Community over agriculture issues which threatens to send the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade into the coffin of history, her hostility to the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), and her passion for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

What is apparent is that the anti-EAEC zealots fear it will be turned into a protectionist trading bloc—an absurd view since the proposers have given an assurance that the EAEC is a forum designed to discuss common problems, to speak as a unified group, and to be a pressure group to keep world trade open. After all, the prosperity of this very region comes largely from promoting free trade and shying away from protectionism. But the U.S. and Australia have been seized with the fear they will be left to peer from the edges of the Pacific at a booming Asia. The U.S. is categorically against Japan playing any dominant role in the Western Pacific rim and, thus, the cajoling and arm-twisting on Japan not to commit itself to the EAEC.

Against this background, U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement that his country does not object to nor oppose the formation of the EAEC comes as a welcome change. It indicates that Clinton has realised that there is nothing to fear but fear itself, something which late. As Asians, it is our custom to accept such statements in goodwill. Neither is it our custom to cast doubt over someone's sincerity. It is questionable, however, whether the rest of America shares his view since it is plainly not an endorsement. How Japan and South Korea construe Clinton's statement may well be the decisive factor as to whether both will make the ominous decision to join the EAEC.

The EAEC will not exist as a caucus of APEC, but because its proposed members are also members of APEC, it will be a caucus within it. This distinction must be acknowledged and accepted by the U.S. As long as APEC does not divert from its original aim of being a loose trade consultative platform, we will cooperate as an APEC member.

As a subregion, ASEAN's dynamism hinges on that of the Asia-Pacific. It is important that ASEAN relates intimately to the rest of Asia-Pacific. Similarly, no cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region will be complete without full ASEAN participation. No one should begrudge the spilling over of East Asian economic dynamism here since that occurs through the open policies of ASEAN countries which provide for trade and investment linkages and certainly not through a trade bloc. But fear may prevent anti-EAEC zealots from seeing the light.

Mahathir Invites Australia's Keating for Visit

BK2511150793 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The minibus service in the nation's capital will be revamped to make the service function beter. More suitable buses will be used. Datuk Sri Mahathir said this to reporters in Kuantan in the wake of recent difficulties. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the prime minister is convinced that the Kelantan State Government deliberately presented the draft hudud [Islamic] law to the State Legislative Assembly as a political issue although it knew that the measures might contravene the provisions of the Federal Constitution. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the federal government should first study the points presented by the Kelantan Government to see if they are compatible with Islam or merely a political ploy. For example, the federal government wants to see if the Kelantan State Government takes into account the overall situation in Malaysia where there are differences in governing areas whose population is 100 percent Muslim and those which are not entirely populated by Muslims.

In another development, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating may visit Malaysia if he wants to. Australian newspapers have reported that Keating will visit Malaysia next year. The prime minister gave his assurances that Keating will not face a negative response if he visits Malaysia.

In response to the demand by the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth Movement that the government reconsider relations between the two countries if Australia fails to apologize or clarifies Keating's recent remarks, the prime minister said the government needs to study the matter first. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said he cannot now express the pros and cons of the demands or say if it will be better if such an action is taken. Yesterday, the movement sent a protest note to Australian High Commissioner John Dauth asking Keating to apologise publicly to the prime minister and all the Malaysian people within the week.

Mahathir Considering Sanctions Against Australia

BK2611024793 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathir Mohamed, says he is considering trade and diplomatic sanctions against Australia. He said he will look at taking such action unless Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating apologizes for calling him recalcitrant.

Mr. Keating made the comment earlier this week when referring to the Malaysian leader's decision not to attend the APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperaction] summit in the United States. Trevor Watson reports Dr. Mahathir now has broad-based support in Malaysia for retaliatory action.

[Begin Watson recording] The original call for sanctions from the youth wing of Dr. Mahathir's ruling United Malay National Organization, UMNO, has been backed by politicians, the media, and the Malaysian human rights group. The Malaysian leader says the youth wing is an important section of his party and he will consider its demands.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah Fadzil says Malaysia will act against Australia and he is now preparing materials for cabinet consideration. Despite the growing rift, Dr. Mahathir says Paul Keating can still visit Malaysia next year as scheduled without the fear of having paint thrown at him as Prime Minister Abdul Razak Hussein did when he went to Australia in the early seventies. [end recording]

Official Document Signed With Indonesia

BK2511071293 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Malaysia and Indonesia have signed an official document at the 22d Malaysia-Indonesia General Border Committee, GBC, meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The committee's joint chairman, Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak and Commander of Indonesia's Armed Forces General Feisal Tanjung signed the document.

The decisions made in one-day meeting include agreements by the two neighboring countries to step up efforts to check sea pollution and smuggling. The document also touched in detail the directives that should be implemented by the GBC next year.

It also focused on social economic cooperation to develop border areas between both countries and cooperation in the maritime field, including monitoring traffic movements in the Straits of Malacca.

Cambodia

Sihanouk on Resolving Khmer Rouge Problem

BK2511121393 Phnom Penh AKP in French 1024 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, 25 Nov (AKP)—His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia, stated in Beijing on 24 November that it was up to the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] to settle the Khmer Rouge problem, in one way or another.

This statement was made a few days after his offer to the Khmer Rouge in his article that he wrote on 21 November under the title: "The Tragic, If Not Deadly, Khmer Rouge Problem," in which the king of Cambodia stressed that "the government might give the posts of co-ministers, co-deputy-ministers, co-secretaries of state, and advisers to acceptable PDK [Party of Democratic Kampuchea] personalities."

He made three conditions; namely, a total and immediate cease-fire; the immediate and unconditional transfer of Preah Vihear, Pailin, and other PDK zones to the state and the government; and the dissolution of the NADK [National Army of Democratic Kampuchea] and its partial inclusion in the royal army.

His majesty said he had written that article in his capacity as a Cambodian citizen (and not as king of Cambodia). Consequently, he said, one must not consider as official or even semi-official my suggestion that some ministerial posts be given to the Khmer Rouge if they surrender to the Cambodian state and return to the RGC all their currently "independent" zones, including Pailin and Preah Vihear, and dissolve their army, the NADK.

Even as king of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk has no right to dictate or even indicate to the RGC what it should or should not do in order to solve this great and grave problem, his majesty stressed, before adding that the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia says: "The king rules but does not govern." In that respect, he said, I certainly have not forgotten my oath to abide by the Constitution.

Ranariddh Says Sihanouk Offer 'Unconstitutional'

BK2511121593 Phnom Penh AKP in French 1019 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 25 Nov (AKP)—Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, said Wednesday, 24 November, that an offer by King Norodom Sihanouk for the Khmer Rouge to surrender in exchange for ministerial portfolios was unconstitutional.

During a ceremony at a military camp south of Phnom Penh, the head of the Cambodian Government said: The Constitution does not allow us to appoint any people who are not members of the parties (elected) to parliament. He added that the Khmer Rouge "could be neither ministers nor secretaries of state," stressing that he was "prepared to accept them as under secretaries of state."

The prince said he would go to Bangkok any time to meet with Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan.

Reiterating the position of his government concerning the rebel faction, Prince Ranariddh affirmed that the ceremony showed that the Khmer Rouge had lost the support they had enjoyed. "They should think of the possibility of disappearing even without any fighting," said the prince.

A total of 895 defectors have received near the capital since September a training which is not only of a military nature but also educational, concerning human rights, Cambodian culture, and Buddhism as well as farming techniques and sanitary guidelines.

Leaders Address New KRAF Inductees

Ranariddh Speech

BK2511090593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Speech by Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, co-commander in chief of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces, at a ceremony held at the reunification center near Dei Et, south of Phnom Penh, to induct Khmer Rouge defectors into the Khmer Royal Armed Forces on 24 November—recorded]

[Text] My respects to all venerable monks present here, to his Excellency Hun Sen, the most esteemed and beloved second prime minister; to Samdech Chakkrei Nhoek Chulong and his wife; and to all beloved excellencies, high-ranking officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF]:

In my capacity as the co-commander in chief of the KRAF, I am greatly moved to be here to preside over the ceremony to end your training course and confer ranks on Your Excellencies and you gentlemen who have left the ranks of the Khmer Rouge army and voluntarily returned to the great national community to serve our nation's superior interests within the framework of the KRAF, of which His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, our one and only king, is the supreme commander.

Today is a historic day in which we Cambodians are taking another step toward national reunification and reconciliation under the correct and enlightened initiative of our most venerated and beloved king father.

Availing myself of this opportunity, first of all, I would like to inform all the brothers present here at this center as well as at any other places that the brothers who have left the ranks of the Khmer Rouge army have made a correct appraisal of our nation's superior interests by volunteering to coexist with all of us in the national community under the august leadership of our venerated king father. Also on this occasion, in my capacity as co-commander of the KRAF and first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] and in the august name of our venerated king, I would like once again to make a fervent appeal to our brothers who are now living and serving in the ranks of the Khmer Rouge army to please defect in even greater numbers to our side so as to show to national and international opinion first of all that you highly appreciate national reunification, national reconciliation, and peace.

This is a time for all of us Cambodians to unite as a single body and follow our venerated king father in order to move Cambodia, which has been through a hard time for 23 years, toward economic development and development in all other fields so as to enable it to catch up with other advanced countries, near and far.

This is the time, the last chance, for Cambodians to unite and uphold our unity. If we fail, serious danger will afflict Cambodia. I also avail myself of this opportunity to remind you again and again of the existing problems, because the Khmer Rouge keep violating [words indistinct] when most Cambodians were united and held free elections, overcoming many obstacles to the elections. After the elections, we formed a parliament, which was born purely out of the will of our people. This Constituent Assembly drafted a constitution with a genuinely liberal democratic character [words indistinct] holding the human rights issue as the most important factor. However, [words indistinct] also considers national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the indivisibility of the state as equally important issues. It also advocated the return of the constitutional monarchy in response to the overwhelming desire of the entire Cambodian nation. This Constituent Assembly then turned itself into the sole legal National Assembly. This National Assembly, in line with the constitution, elected his majesty, the father of our nation, and gave him the highest title, not only as the father of independence and father of national reconciliation, but also as our most respected and venerated king. His majesty the king appointed two prime ministers, who are present here: His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen and myself. The king also appointed a new legal government. For this reason, after we [words indistinct] had created all the legitimate features for a national structure. This national reconciliation structure not only has been recognized by the international community, but has also won us wide acclaim and appraise. [passage indistinct] Why have the Khmer Rouge stubbornly insisted on staying outside the national mainstream [words indistinct].

His majesty the king wrote an article [words indistinct] about the Khmer Rouge issue, stressing one point at a time [words indistinct]. I request that our General Staff and the appropriate ministries, such as the Information Ministry, disseminate his majesty's correct opinion [words indistinct] so the Khmer Rouge will clearly grasp this most correct royal opinion.

About the opinion of our august king father, our venerated king, I would like to read it and comment on it in my capacity as a prime minister of the RGC.
gning the Paris agreement with other Cambodian factions, the army of Democratic Kampuchea did nothing but destroy bridges and roads, blow up railroads [words indistinct] torch villages and communes, rob, rustle cattle [words indistinct]. Currently, [words indistinct] are being destroyed, killed, or maimed in larger numbers than at any other times [words indistinct]. All of this does not serve the nation in the least. Everytime there is fighting, Khmer Rouge troops kill or injure many civilian people [words indistinct]. The army of Democratic Kampuchea has brought dishonor to our motherland and famine stalks the land. As for the foreign powers and countries, they have not done any thing significant for the survival of our race and have not yet rendred any service to the reconstruction of this impoverished Cambodia. Therefore, if the army of Democratic Kampuchea has pity for the Cambodian nation and people, or if this army considers itself patriotic, it should put an end to all the crimes so as to faciliate solutions [words indistinct] of the RGC. These solutions are:

1. To effect a total and immediate cease-fire throughout the country, including the cessation of all attacks against [words indistinct] causing considerable damage to the property of the people, such as roads, bridges, railroads, and so on, and terminate all new provocations.

2. To immediately and unconditionally hand over to the RGC the Preah Vihear, Pailin, and other zones controlled by Democratic Kampuchea.

3. To dissolve the army of Democratic Kampuchea and induct some of this army in the KRAF—just as we are doing today. In compensation, the RGC might accord a number of roles, such as co-ministers, ministers, state secretaries, and advisers, to some acceptable personalities of the party of Democratic Kampuchea, excluding Messrs. Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Nuon Chea, and Ta Mok. His majesty the king might appoint a high-ranking personality as his high adviser.

Certainly, the aforementioned points—all three—cannot be settled by the party of Democratic Kampuchea alone without talks or discussions with the RGC.

All of this is the royal offer made by our king father that we have translated and from which I have read out three main points for all of you here. I also propose that the other [words indistinct] take the king's opinion for consideration. If the Khmer Rouge follow these three points of the king, which are correct and appropriate [words indistinct] the RGC headed by His Excellency Hun Sen and me is always prepared to discuss, not negotiate, with the representative of the Khmer Rouge group. We are not going to negotiate but discuss in my capacity as the legitimate representative of the nation with a group of Cambodians who are [words indistinct] their own country against the [words indistinct] of the nation and against the will of the entire people. However, for the sake of national unification, national reconciliation [words indistinct] the RGC under the correct advice of the king is always prepared for talks. But the Khmer Rouge group [words indistinct] the three-point offer of our venerated king that I have just read out for Your Excellencies and gentlemen here and over the national radio and television for the information of those gentlemen in Pailin and other zones such as Ta Mok and others. If they comply with [words indistinct] I would like to inform you that we are prepared, but the Khmer Rouge group must immediately answer to the very correct offer of our venerated king.

In order give the stage to His Excellency Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to voice a warm welcome to all of you, excellencies and gentlemen, in the august name of his majesty the king who is the supreme commander of the KRAF. Within the framework of the KRAF, I would like to remind and command [words indistinct] senior officers, non-commissioned officers, and men that when you are inducted in the KRAF, your duty is to safeguard the national interests and join the national mainstream in defending our Cambodian territory. What is the KRAF? It is an army born out of the Cambodian people. Therefore, the duty of the KRAF is to defend the nation's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. At a time when our country is very poor and needs national rehabilitation and reconstruction, the duty of the KRAF is the same as that under Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's pre-1970 ruling party]. Not only does it have the duty to defend Cambodia's territory, but the KRAF must also restore trails, build new roads, and restore the nation's agriculture which is the important factor for the country's socioeconomic development.

Today, we are fortunate to bask in the presence of Samdech Chakkrei Nhoek Chulong who, under Sangkum Reas Niyum, closely followed our king father in providing leadership for the KRAF [words indistinct] our motherland to win independence from France and helped the king father found the KRAF. Ultimately, Samdech Chakkrei Nhoek Chulong, who is present here, followed our king father in building dozens of kilometers of trails that still exist today. Therefore, we must imitate the work of the KRAF. What reason will the Khmer Rouge use to oppose us if our duty, our obligation is only to defend the nation's independence and territory while coexisting with the Cambodian people and having been born out of the Cambodian people. We must help rebuild our nation, restore our country under the royal leadership of our venerated king.

In conclusion, I would like to express to all of you the five Buddhist blessings; namely, long life, social prestige, happiness, good health, and enlightenment. May all of you encounter nothing but fortune, happiness, and well-being. In particular, in your national defense mission, may you vanquish the enemy in all directions and pool your forces inside the framework of the KRAF with the other eminent members of this army in order to defend our beloved and sacred motherland and advance our Kingdom of Cambodia toward total independence, territorial and integrity, and especially toward that all-around development enjoyed by all civilized countries and our neighbors.

Once again, I would like to remind you that now you are faced with a historic duty and obligation. The future of Cambodia is not in the hands of foreigners. The future of Cambodia is in the hands of all of us Cambodians. It is written on the banner there: United we stand; divided we fall. We Cambodians must be united in order to survive; otherwise, we will fall. Because we were divided, we suffered so much for so long. Now, this is for us the last stage in which we are fortunate to have our venerated king to help us achieve national unification and lead our nation toward lasting peace and independence. Therefore, what we should do is join hands and unite as a single body to build and restore the nation under the enlightened and most correct royal leadership of our venerated king, namely, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Long live the KRAF. Long live the Kingdom of Cambodia. Long live His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman.

Hun Sen Address

BK2511111793 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Speech by Hun Sen, co-commander in chief of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces, at a ceremony at the reunification center near Dei Et, south of Phnom Penh, to induct Khmer Rouge defectors into the Khmer Royal Armed Forces on 24 November—recorded]

[Text] My respects to all venerable monks; to Prince Krompreah, first prime minister and co-commander in chief of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF]; to beloved excellencies and gentlemen who are officers and non-commissioned officers [words indistinct]:

Today, I am greatly honored to be present on this occasion to induct our compatriots from the ranks of the Khmer Rouge into the KRAF as well as to confer ranks on them. This is in line with [words indistinct] signed by Prince Krompreah and myself last July and August.

On this occasion, I would like to express my deepest thanks [words indistinct] gentlemen for a timely response to the appeal of the former government as well as the royal government (?in line with) the national reconciliation policy of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk who was then the head of state and now is the king of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Availing myself of this occasion, I would like to thank all generals, officers, and soldiers who are here and staying elsewhere for this response and for fulfilling your duty as Cambodian citizens. His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman has said [words indistinct] misery and suffering of the people. Your timely response and return to join the people and royal government constitute a great honor to our nation. This is not just your personal honor but an honor for our nation as well. Had you remained officers and soldiers and carried on your activities during the past several months, hundreds of you might have caused much destruction to our people. Thus, your joining the KRAF [words indistinct] under the leadership of the outstanding son of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman is an appropriate response [words indistinct].

This is not a surrender nor a submission; but this is your honor, your personal dignity, having fulfilled your duty [words indistinct] serve our compatriots. Therefore, the royal government and the KRAF do not regard you as the ones who surrendered or were captured or defeated in war.

We regard you as ones who have fulfilled their duty for the motherland. Now it is the turn of the royal government and KRAF to fulfill their duty, that is, to give you appropriate status and ranks and intergrate you into the KRAF so as to join with the people throughout the country and the armed forces throughout the country in fulfilling the duty of defending the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity [words indistinct].

Revered Prince Krompreah, beloved excellencies and gentlemen, we are meeting here today in a [words indistinct] a step forward toward national reconciliation under the king's leadership. Just now, Prince Krompreah, the first prime minister and co-commander in chief, has mentioned issues concerning the process for national reconciliation. On this occasion, I would like also to recall that the door for reunification is still open to the Khmer Rouge group in line with the policy of King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman.

It is true as Prince Krompreah has just now clearly stressed [words indistinct] points that the Khmer Rouge must fulfill are for the (?survival of the nation). We know well that a few days ago, the Khmer Rouge's representative in Phnom Penh said that the royal government has set preconditions. I would like to stress here that the royal government has not set any preconditions for the Khmer Rouge to integrate themselves in the national community. It is the Khmer Rouge who must fulfill their duty as Cambodian citizens. And when the Khmer Rouge fulfill that duty, it is the government's duty to give the Khmer Rouge in return whatever it is we must give. [Words indistinct] the royal government must not give the Khmer Rouge. [passage indistinct]. We, the royal government, do not want to continue the war. We do not want to wage war. [Words indistinct] national reunification, unity, and reconstruction. This is the problem that all of us must jointly resolve within the framework of [words indistinct].

Some people have suggested the incorporation of the former troops of the party of Democratic Kampuchea or Khmer Rouge into the KRAF and some of their leaders into the royal government or as advisers to the royal government. I would like to tell you that all these ideas constitute one reason. But the royal government also has other reasons [words indistinct] national reconciliation policy of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman. Another reason is that if we keep them as forces in a war, it would be a great waste for (?both sides and) the Cambodian citizens would be the ones to suffer the greatest losses. The big loser is the Cambodian people.

Since the royal government does not want war to continue on this unfortunate Cambodian land, it has thus changed its attitude from one of encouraging war to one of peace, that is, reunification of the armed forces from all factions and integration of them into the KRAF so as to fulfill the common duty of defending national independence and sovereignty and building the country through the motto "country, religion, and king" which is the only ideology that should be spread among the officers and men of the KRAF and national police force. This motto is [words indistinct] fulfill duty by giving these roles to the Khmer Rouge group. But the Khmer Rouge must not forget that they must also fulfill their duty for the country as well. As His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman has proposed and Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister and co-commander in chief, has just mentioned, the three points that they must fulfill are:

1. Stop immediately all military activities which are destructive to the country.

2. Return all zones under Khmer Rouge control to the state, to the royal government.

3. Integrate all their armed forces into the KRAF.

This, in business terms, is the price that you have to pay, but in terms of obligation, it is one that both the Khmer Rouge and the royal government must fulfill.

As Prince Krompreah just said, the royal government is ready, both Prince Krompreah and myself [words indistinct] elected by the National Assembly and appointed by king's decree, to negotiate with the Khmer Rouge representative anywhere and at any time. But the Khmer Rouge must fulfill their duty as well. This is not a precondition, but an obligation that they must fulfill. As for the royal government, it has (?until today) fulfilled its obligation as promised in July and August [words indistinct]. Whatever the Khmer Rouge have raised, setting preconditions and demanding this and that, has presented difficulties.

Now, I would like to raise a point for discussion here, that is, the slogan that you are upholding "united we live; disunited, we die" [words indistinct]. His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman has made a remark that I read last night and this morning. If I am not mistaken, the king has clearly stated that the Kingdom of Cambodia in this 1993 is like a man with (?one of his eyes) gouged out by foreigners. This is a very important point. What does it mean? It means that in 1993 some foreigners still have not respected our unfortunate country's borders recognized internationally between 1953-69. At the same time, his own children, children of Cambodia, have chopped off his arms and legs, that is, some Cambodians have seceded and controlled a part of the Cambodian territory as a state within the state. This act runs counter to a clause in the constitution which says that the Kingdom of Cambodia is an indivisible state. How can we settle the problem of our territorial integrity with the neighboring countries when we ourselves are not yet united? This is the matter that the Khmer Rouge leaders must reconsider clearly. If we are handicapped with one eye gouged out and a leg and an arm chopped off as the king has said, before entering a sport competition with anyone [words indistinct]. In a condition in which we have lost one eye, an arm, and a leg, how can we negotiate with anyone?

Therefore, the primary duty of the Khmer Rouge, if they really are patriotic, is to think about the nation's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. They should take part as our body, arms, legs [words indistinct] with the neighboring countries to end border disputes. His majesty also reminded usin his article that we must negotiate so as to demarcate border markers correctly according to maps mentioned in the constitution and recognized internationally in the 1960's. [Words indistinct] be our advisers so that we can negotiate with the neighboring countries. If you are that capable, do come to be our advisers. Come to be advisers to Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, Hun Sen, or any others who are in charge of negotiating border problems with the neighboring countries. Come, do come. Come to be our advisers. You should study the sizes of maps, rules and regulations, agreements [words indistinct]. After that, we will hold negotiations with the neighboring countries to resolve the unsettled border problems. We invite you to come to be the advisers and go to negotiate with the neighboring countries. The royal government will authorize you as delegates to negotiate on border problems if you are really that patriotic.

As I have just said, the Kingdom of Cambodia in 1993 is just like a man who has had an eye taken out by foreigners and one of his arms and legs chopped off and his other eye gouged out by his children. So now, how can we solve our problems with the neighboring countries when we are hurting ourselves like this? Therefore, I would like to call on the Khmer Rouge leaders to reconsider all those problems if they really are patriots. I would like to cite an old Chinese saying. I am not a Sinologist, but I used to cite this old Chinese saying quite often before. This Chinese saying goes: if all the leaves fall, the trunk will die. I do not remember in what century that saying was created, but its meaning is very important. It is close to what his majesty has said. If you want to see whether it is true or not just try to cut down all leaves and you will see how many more years the trunk can last. If the trunk dies, all the leaves and branches will also fall. Within only a few years, the trunk will be turned into charcoal. Likewise, if the Cambodian people are united as a tree with full leaves, branches, and trunk, we will not die. Therefore, our present obligation is to achieve national reunification and unity and to rally our forces to build and defend our country within the framework of our independence and sovereignty.

On this occasion, I would like to appeal to the officers and men in the ranks of the Khmer Rouge to come to join our national community. As I have just stressed, this is not a surrender [words indistinct]. It is the fulfillment of the duty that a citizen must fulfill.

I would like also to express deep thanks and warm commendation to all generals, colonels, lieutenants, officers, and non-commissioned officers who have joined us on this occasion. I would like also to commend excellencies, gentlemen, and commanders at all levels from the Defense Ministry for effectively carrying out the royal government's policy in rallying forces into the KRAF.

I wish all officers, noncommissioned officers, and men success, longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment. Thank you.

Sihanouk Demands Apology From Paper, Official

BK2411135393 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 24 Nov 93

["Message" from King Norodom Sihanouk to Chea Sim, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and Hun Sen issued in Beijing on 22 November—read by announcer]

[Text] From Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia to His Excellency Samdech Chea Sim, acting head of state of the Kingdom of Cambodia; Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first head of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC]; and His Excellency Hun Sen, second head of the RGC.

Samdech, Highness, Excellency: About two weeks ago a Cambodian newspaper in Phnom Penh and an official of Kandal Province fabricated news to mislead the Cambodian people into believing that I had invited the 1993 Cambodian beauty queen to see me in Beijing. On this subject, in my message to the beloved compatriots, I requested the RGC to clarify this unfounded assertion. The fact is I have never talked about or written anything that could be interpreted as an invitation from me.

I have been waiting for two weeks for a short clarification by the RGC and for an apology from the lying official. Of course, this is not a big deal. But I have received nothing so far, except a report presented to me by the head of my personal secretariat in Phnom Penh. Even if I were not king of Cambodia but just an ordinary Cambodian citizen, I deem that in the case of such a falsehood the offending newspaper and official still owe me a written apology.

I would like to say one more time that I do not ask for any punitive action against this newspaper or this official. But I feel that a few words of apology directly sent to Mister Norodom Sihanouk would not be asking too much.

Samdech, Highness, Excellency, please accept my highest regards and profound affection.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia

[Dated] 22 November 1993, Beijing

Government Clarifies Allegations

BK2411140593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 24 Nov 93

["Message" from the Royal Government of Cambodia to King Sihanouk issued in Phnom Penh on 19 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Most humbly to His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia, father of the nation, father of national reconciliation, and father of democracy:

Your Majesty: All of us in the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] feel extremely sorry after receiving your august message top us dated 16 November. On behalf of the RGC, we would like to express our deepest regret over the deplorable and unfounded news that has blemished the august reputation of Your Majesty, our king and the heart and soul of the Cambodian people.

The allegation that Your Majesty had invited the beauty queen to visit you in Beijing was a pure fabrication. We would like to inform Your Majesty that we had ordered the co-ministers in charge of the Council of Ministers' Office to summon the representative of Kandal Province and the director of the newspaper REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA for clarification. After hearing both sides, the Council of Ministers' Office concluded that there was a misunderstanding, an unfortunate misreading on both sides. The deputy governor of Kandal Province, Mr. Kun Kim, admitted that he had made that allegation but only in a hypothetical form. He also claimed that the newspaperman did not understand him clearly. Therefore, the incident was caused by an unintentional misunderstanding. We would like to attach herewith Mr. Kun Kim's deposition. This deposition has already been given to the Infomation Ministry for dissemination among the general public. As for the correction of the RGC Ministry of Information, it was broadcast over television and radio on 19 November. Its contents are attached herewith for your august information.

We would like to express our best wishes to Your Majesty and your royal consort. May you enjoy good health, long life, and a speedy recovery from all illnesses so that you will return to the country as soon as possible to continue providing a cool shade for all your subjects in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Your Majesty, we humbly express to you our most ardent loyalty and highest veneration.

[Signed] First Prime Minister Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen

[Dated] 19 November 1993, Phnom Penh

Ieng Muli Urges Media To Remain Neutral

BK2611080193 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0402 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, 26 Nov (AKP)—A seminar on press code was held in Phnom Penh under the auspices of UNESCO and the Australian International Development Aid Bureau [AIDAB].

In his address to open the seminar attended by ambassadors and local and foreign reporters, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, expressed his satisfaction with the progress made with press matters.

The prince stressed that the government wishes to see Cambodian reporters of all political leanings respect morality, veracity, and social justice. Reporters should take into consideration the country's higher interests, including its territorial integrity, economy, and general education of the population, added the prince.

On the same occasion, Ieng Muli, minister of information, thanked UNESCO and AIDAB for their assistance in organizing the seminar. He promised that his ministry would encourage the media to adopt neutral positions, regardless of their political sentiments.

The Kingdom of Cambodia's Constitution and government consistently guarantee press freedom and democracy, said the minister. He called on reporters to respect morality, tradition, and customs and promote social development in all sectors.

Ieng Muli disclosed that the Information Ministry intended to set up only one Cambodian reporters association with a view to clearly determining media freedom and rights.

The Information Ministry plans to organize professional training courses for Cambodian journalists to enrich their knowledge, said the minister.

Indonesia

Information Agreement Signed With DPRK

BK2511085693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Indonesia and North Korea have agreed to increase the flow of information through a technical committee on information. The agreement was reached during a meeting between Information Minister Harmoko and North Korean Information Minister Kim Ki-yong in Jakarta this morning.

Speaking to newsmen, Information Minister Harmoko clarified that the technical committee was to implement programs agreed upon previously in an effort to enhance and widen bilateral cooperation. This would improve the existing good bilateral trade and economic relations. Information on developments, culture, and sports would also be upgraded.

According to Minister Harmoko, the technical committee on information will conduct the exchange of information materials.

During their meeting, the two information ministers also discussed issues concerning the development of information among nonaligned countries and the efforts to upgrade the flow of information to those nations.

DPRK Minister, Vice President Meet

BK2511152693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Vice President Try Sutrisno says information plays an important role in development in Indonesia, particularly in view of the global aspects of the information field. Vice President Try Sutrisno said this when he received North Korean Information Minister Kim Ki-yong, who was accompanied by Information Minister Harmoko, in Jakarta this afternoon.

Sumadi, staff member at the State Secretariat, told newsmen after the meeting that the North Korean information minister disclosed that efforts to reunify North and South Korea are deadlocked. According to Kim Ki-yong, it is difficult to realize reunification in the near future because the two countries have basic political differences. The North Korean information minister admitted that the division of Korea 48 years ago has brought suffering to the Korean people themselves.

Editorial Urges Protection of Trademarks

BK2411141593 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 11 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Usurping Trademarks"]

[Text] The current litigation proceedings against the original and rightful proprietors of several famous foreign brand names at the Central Jakarta district court are indeed a bizarre twist to the impressive improvements made by the government over the last six years in the protection of intellectual property rights. What makes the developments even more puzzling is that the number of "strange" court cases seems to have increased since the widely-acclaimed new Trademark Law came into effect last April.

We therefore fully understand the fury of renowned designer Pierre Cardin, one of the original owners of famous trademarks, currently being sued by a local company. It is indeed strange and ironic that this French businessman, who has worked hard and invested a great deal over the last 40 years in achieving world-wide recognition of his name for his trademark luxury consumer items, is now being sued for using his own brand name.

The main source of the trademark disputes, as explained by J.B. Lumenta, a noted consultant on intellectual property rights, is the provision of the new trademark act which stipulates that trademark registrations, which were still effective at the time the new law came into force, will remain valid until their expiration dates. Hence, the current litigation proceedings against the rightful owners of famous foreign brand names being pursued by local companies which registered their versions of well-known trademarks under the old law (1961), before the original owners filed their own registration with the Indonesian Trademark and Patent Office. The new law rejects outright any new registrations of trademarks which resemble or are duplications of brand names already well known in the country or overseas.

It is regrettable that the government, in promulgating the new trademark law, overlooked the loophole contained in the old legislation which used a declaration-based system. The problem was exacerbated by the fact that the old law did not stipulate anything about well known brand names or trademarks, thereby allowing local companies or businessmen to register whatever trademarks came to mind. The justice minister did issue a ruling in 1991 which instructed the Trademark and Patent Office to refuse the registration of brand names already well known in the country or overseas. But it turned out that most famous brand names had been registered by unauthorized parties before the new ruling was enforced.

Obviously, the government should respond quickly to the complaints of the rightful, original owners of famous brand names which are now registered in the names of unauthorized owners. Adequate protection of intellectual property rights, including trademarks and patents, is one of the main prerequisites to stimulating innovation to develop high value-added products. It is also high on the list of preconditions looked at by foreign investors in deciding on the locations of their projects.

We are greatly encouraged to learn that Minister of Justice Utojo Usman, who yesterday received Pierre Cardin and French Ambassador Dominique Girard, also expressed great concern over the plight of foreign businessmen whose famous brand names have been registered by unauthorized parties here. Oetojo reportedly promised to instruct the Trademark and Patent Office to refuse the renewal of the registration of well known trademarks by unauthorized parties. Hopefully, the minister's views and great concern will be fully understood and translated by the judges presiding over the court proceedings against the original proprietors of famous foreign trademarks.

Laos

Finance Minister Leaves for Visit to SRV

BK2511035893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] On the morning of 23 November, Khamsai Souphanouvong, finance minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and a technical delegation of the Finance Ministry left for an official visit to the SRV at tje invitation of the SRV finance minister.

During the visit, the LPDR Finance Ministry delegation is scheduled to hold talsk with the Vietnamese side on financial cooperation and cooperation in studying possibilities for joint investments. They will discuss the policy granting privileges on export-import taxes, thus creating favorable conditions for expanding trade ties. They will also discuss a cooperation plan and mutual assistance in the technical field between the two ministries.

The ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to the LPDR was also present at the airport.

Consulate General Opens in Kunming 25 Nov

BK2611100493 Vientiane KPL in English 0629 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Vientiane, November 26 (KPL)—The Lao People's Democratic Republic, on November 25 opened a consulate general in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province.

This is the second consulate general established in Kunming, following that of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], which opened in September this year.

China will, in turn, set up a consulate general in Laotian city Savannakhet, according to an agreement.

Consul-General Fongkeo Phanouvong said at the opening ceremony that the consulate will serve to strengthen the ties between Laos and Yunnan, which have a long history of traditional friendship.

Yunnan Governor He Zhijiang and Kunming Mayor Wang Tingchen were present at the ceremony.

Memorandum on Airport Signed With Thailand

BK2611103293 Vientiane KPL in English 0631 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Vientiane, November 26 (KPL)—A memorandum of understanding on the Luang Prabang airport development project was signed on November 24 between the government representatives of Laos and Thailand.

The document stipulates series of work to be carried out within the framework of the airport development project receiving a 50 million baht aid from the Government of Thailand.

The duration of the project is 30 months commencing from May 1994.

The deputy minister of communications, transport, post and construction, Mr. Phimmakon Manotham, witnessed the signing of the aid project.

Mekong Bridge Progress Discussed With Thailand

BK2511120893 Vientiane KPL in English 0710 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 25 (KPL)—Lao and Thai technical teams concerned with the opening of the Mekong bridge on December 23 met at Thanaleng to discuss the matters of ownership, jurisdiction over, and use of the bridge.

The head of the Lao team was Mr. Seun Phetsanghan, deputy minister of Communications, Transport, Post, and Construction, while that of the Thai side was Mr. Prathep, director of the National Energy and Environment Department, Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment of Thailand.

The sides reported on the progress on the implementation of ideas discussed at the first round meeting in Nong Khai early October. This involves particularly the matter of ownership, the establishment of jurisdiction and organization concerning the use and maintenance of the bridge and others that the sides could find uniform and appropriate methods for preparing the draft of an agreement that has to be signed by the two governments before the official opening date of the bridge scheduled for April 8.

Mr. Sivat Phanouvong, head of the Mekong bridge construction project, indicated that now the border control system construction was 30 percent completed, including offices for customs, police, foreign exchange, post, and refreshment facilities. All these cost more than 6 million Australian dollars, covered by the Australian Government aid. The construction will be completed before March 1994.

More Refugees Repatriated From Thailand 25 Nov

BK2611103693 Vientiane KPL in English 0648 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Vientiane, November 26 (KPL)—301 Lao refugees have returned home yesterday from Thailand, marking the 13th group of this year, reports "VIENTIANE MAI" newspaper today.

Among them, 62 families of 154 repatriates are natives of Vientiane Prefecture, four families of 20 of Sayaboury Province, 28 families of 127 of Vientiane Province.

In addition to materials provided, a repatriate is offered 103,000 kip to start a new life.

There are still 15,000 Lao refugees in Thailand to be repatriated in the future, the source points out.

On November 23, the administration of Bokeo Province also welcomed 166 Lao refugees from Thailand with the assistance and coordination of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Among the repatriates, nine families are natives of Luang Prabang Province, four of Sayaboury, 28 families of Bokeo.

Khamtai Siphandon Addresses Party Units

BK2511151193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], had the honor to address representatives of party units from all over the country and to discuss various issues with them.

Listening to the address by the LPRP CC comrade chairman were members of the Political Bureau: Comrade Maichantan Sengmani, Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, Comrade Choummali Sai-gnason, Comrade Thongsing

Thammavong, and members of the party committees from all ministries and organizations under the Party Central Committee.

The comrade chairman of the LPRP CC expressed his views on certain fundamental issues, specifically emphasizing that it is now more important than ever to pay closer attention to upgrading and increasing the leading role of the party in all fields by appreciating the truth that only by having the party leadership can our national independence and unification, political and social stability, and national development be guaranteed. All in all, the party leadership commands historical events and the people have faith in the party. Therefore, we will never forsake the leadership. On the contrary, we will continue constantly upgrading and holding aloft the role of the party leadership.

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon pledged to upgrade the party leadership and guidance for the party grass roots and party units. One of the factors attributed to the weaknesses of the party grass roots and party units is a lack of leadership and guidance from the higher level. Therefore, it is necessary to resolve this problem. First of all, the higher-level party leadership must have a detailed leadership and guidance plan for the grass-roots units under its supervision. This is a very important task of the party. This leadership and guidance plan must be suitable to the special characteristics of each location and each period. It must be all-encompassing; for example, in leading the political and ideological work, national defense, public security maintenance, culture, and socioeconomic production. The higher-level party committees must have a definite agenda to go down to the grass roots to try to understand its situation and line of thinking as well as all problems faced by cadres, party members, and people at the grass roots. At the same time, they must constantly give advice to the party grass roots and party units. In addition, they must step up supervision to the lower level. It is important that all party committees are sincere toward and help one another build themselves so as to make progress together. Only by doing this will all party units, party committees, and party organizations become strong, thereby further strengthening the party as a whole.

in conclusion, the comrade chairman of the LPRP CC stressed that the grass roots must be built and strengthened in all fields. He noted that the building of grass roots is linked to the upgrading and building of the party grass roots and all-around party units. The upgrading and building of all-around strong party grass roots and party units is linked to the objectives of the prevailing socioeconomic development and construction and the special conditions and characteristics of all grass roots. As a result, national defense and public security maintenance in that particular grass-roots locality will be guaranteed. At the same time, the party grass roots and party units must be built to become politically, ideologically, and organizationally strong. Party units will be strong only when party members are strong. Therefore, to build party units into strong organizations, the quality of party members must be elevated. All these are the issues which must be further studied by representatives of all party units.

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon finally expressed his belief, stressing that after this important meeting, all comrades will come to a conclusion and will be able to define the direction of the tasks in upgrading and building the party grass-roots and party units to become strong in all fields, thereby creating new steps for their advancement. If our party remains steadfast, it will become strong. We firmly believe that we will be able to guide the entire party, army, and people to triumphantly fulfill the two strategic tasks as well as the cause of restructuring, thereby ensuring the advancement of our country toward our chosen goals.

Party Units Conference Concludes

BK2611103793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The nationwide conference of representatives of party units concluded successfully in Vientiane yesterday afternoon.

Thongsing Thammavong, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chief of the Party Central Committee Organization Board, chaired the four-day conference. The meeting was attended by more than 190 members of the Party Central Committee; party secretaries of ministries, organizations, factories, hospitals, and schools; and representatives of party committees of provinces, districts, villages, and production establishments thoughout the country.

During the four-day meeting, representatives of party units heard a report on the building of party grass roots and party units over the past period, which was presented by Thongsing Thammavong, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and chief of the Organization Board of the Party Central Committee. In the report, he noted the results of work in the building of party grass roots and party units in the past period. He noted the distinguished performances, weak points, and problems that must be corrected, especially in the implementaion of the party's renovation principles and the state laws and procedures.

In addition, the meeting also set guidelines for implementing duties and details for building party grass roots and party units in the future. Emphasis is placed on improving the party's supervision to upgrade continuously the quality and ability of the party's supervision at the grass-roots level. The practice is aimed at encouraging the activities of party grass roots and party units of each locality, ministry, and organization to proceed smoothly and correctly in line with the party rules and regulations, as well as the roles and duties of each party unit. At the same time, it is also aimed at improving the relations between party grass roots, party units, and the masses, and attentively stimulating the masses to contribute to the building of party units and party members. In the process, the masses will be given chances to elect distinguished persons to become party members and public opinion will be used as a basis for incessant improvement of the quality of building party grass roots, party units, and party members. Moreover, representatives of party units and various agencies also discussed topics and offered views frankly.

Furthermore, the meeting had the honor to listen to the address of Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Party Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

After that, Thongsing Thammavong, Political Bureau member and chief of the Organization Board of the Party Central Committee, delivered an official closing address to the meeting. [passage omitted]

Philippines

MNLF Clears Abu Sayaf of Abducting American

BK2611013993 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 24 Nov 93 pp 1, 8

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has denied that the extremist group Abu Sayaf kidnapped American Charles Walton, a Malacanang official said yesterday.

The official, who did not want to be named, said MNLF information officer Alhabsi Rin Mutahib announced over radio station DXMM in Zamboanga City that based on MNLF's own investigation, Walton's kidnappers may be "a band of notorious and lawless elements."

Military and police authorities, however, doubted MNLF's findings, noting that the secessionist group has strong connections with Abu Sayaf, which is being blamed for terroristic attacks in Zamboanga City, Basilan, Sulu and in other areas in Mindanao during the last two years.

Mutahib's statement clearing Abu Sayaf of the Walton kidnapping was relayed to President Ramos in Washington Monday morning by a coordinating committee in Malacanang led by Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona.

The committee, which ran the day-to-day affairs of government while Mr. Ramos was visiting the United States, has been closely monitoring the Walton kidnapping.

According to a confidential report Malacanang received, the 60 year-old Walton was taken to another hideout by his abductors at about 2 A.M. last 19 November. From Patikul, the kidnappers reportedly moved Walton to Upper Kaunayan in Sulu.

Mutahib also said MNLF views the recent abduction of the American as an attempt to "derail" the peace process between government and MNLF.

He also said Walton's kidnappers could be the same group that abducted two Spanish nuns in Sulu early this year.

The kidnappers have issued three demands in exchange for Walton's freedom: a stop to fishing by foreign ships in the waters around Mindanao; not allowing foreigners in Mindanao to translate the Bible into different dialects; and letting foreign ambassadors witness any agreement the group would make with the government.

The demands were relayed to Vice President Joseph Estrada by Sulu Representative Bensaudi Tulawie and Sulu Governor Tupay Loong, who are negotiating for Walton's release.

Estrada, who heads an emergency committee handling the kidnapping, said he saw no problem complying with the demands. Tulawie also told Estrada that contrary to the Malacanang report, Walton was still being held in Patikul island.

The American was kidnapped in nearby Pangutaran island on 14 November. About a thousand soldiers and policemen are standing by to rescue him in case negotiations with his captors fail.

Fifty-One Fishermen Detained in Indonesia

BK2511113493 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Fifty-one Filipino fishermen are now being detained in Indonesia due to illegal fishing. The Filipinos are crew members of five fishing boats that were apprehended by Indonesian authorities; namely, Mercy 01, Three RC, Santa Veronica, Alan Paul, and San Antonio de Padua.

The Philippine consulate in Manado City is now trying to work for the release of the fishermen and their subsequent return to the Philippines.

Military Gains Control in Four Luzon Regions

BK2511114693 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Nov 93 p B-15

[Text] Cabanatuan City—The government's current peace initiatives in Regions 1, 2, 3 and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) are paying huge dividends which resulted in the people's support and acceptance of the military's efforts geared towards bridging the gap between the government and the rural folk.

Because of this development, the counter-insurgency functions of the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division (7ID) in rebel-infested areas in Northern and Central Luzon will be turned over in 1994 to the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the four areas. In turn, the

Army will concentrate its activities on building infrastructure facilities through its five engineering brigades.

This assessment was made by Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. G. Solquillo, commanding general of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based at Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City, at a briefing during the weekly Media Forum at the La Padilla 1900 restaurant here. The forum was sponsored by the Nueva Ecija Press Club.

"The intensive efforts exerted by government troopers saw the crippling and further disintegration of not only the political but even the military structure of the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army," Solquillo said.

As a result of the "strategic control" gained by the 7ID over its area of responsibility, Solquillo said, he hopes "to attain the timetable set forth in containing the enemy by the end of the current year."

Solquillo said that due to the gradual winning over of 11 enemy fronts in the division's area of responsibility, the insurgency problem as a whole has been turned into a "manageable level." The remaining fronts—in Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora, Abra and Ifugao provinces—have become only secondary.

In Abra, Ifugao and Mt. Province, consolidation by the establishment of holding forces and development efforts through infrastructure projects with the participation of local officials and agencies in the area are the main activities that will eventually pave the way for the solving of the insurgency problem, the 7ID chief said.

The 7ID has jurisdiction over 14 provinces in Regions 1, 2 and 3 and the Cordillera Administration Region. It covers eight cities, 229 towns and 6,648 villages, with a total population of 8.8 million.

In Nueva Ecija and Aurora, the 7ID eliminated the insurgency problem in 690 and 101 villages, respectively.

Zamboanga Residents Oppose Hosting Talks

BK2411123393 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Nov 93 p B-15

[By Vic P. Arevalo]

[Text] Zamboanga City—The people of Zamboanga are opposing the holding of the 6 December peace negotiations between the national government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in this city.

Rep. Maria Clara Lobregat (Zamboanga City) said that the people of this city have expressed apprehension about the security situation, "considering that the city is against its inclusion in any autonomous region and the revival of the Tripoli Agreement which are the subject matters that will be touched in the Zamboanga meeting."

Lobregat said, "The people are worried over the government's reported approval for a plan of the MNLF to bring security forces to Zamboanga City during the meeting."

It was recalled that when MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari visited Mindanao in 1986, he and his armed group were barred from entering this city. He instead held consultations with his people and sympathizers on Sacol Island.

Lobregat said the government has not consulted the people or its leaders in the selection of Zamboanga City as venue for the 6 December meeting.

"We are getting the feeling that the administration is taking the city for granted and is bending backward just to accommodate the MNLF," she said.

As Zamboanga's voice in the House of Representatives, Lobregat said that the Zamboanguenos are against the implementation of the Tripoli Agreement. "The people resent the way the government has been acting on the matter of autonomy and MNLF issues. The people are getting more convinced that Imperial Manila is again deciding for them," she said.

The overwhelming rejection of autonomy by the people of Zamboanga during the 1989 plebiscite (90,152 voted "no" to autonomy and 5,299 voted "yes") "is enough to let the government realize that the city does not want to be a part of the autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao."

Lobregat said the planned 6 December meeting in Zamboanga City "will only serve to divide our Christian and Muslim population. We have tried our very best to live in peace and harmony with each other."

"We haven't had any security problem until the MNLF and autonomy issue came up. The entry of MNLF Chairman Misuari to the city will not be supportive of the efforts of the community in fostering harmonious living," she added.

Study Views Monopolies, Oligopolies

BK2611023593 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Nov 93 pp 1, 6

[By Genevieve I. Soledad]

[Text] A study commissioned by the Private Investment Trade Opportunities Philippines (PITO-P) and the Philippine Exporters Confederation (Philexport) confirms the existence of monopolies in the telecommunications and electric power sectors and oligopolies in the banking and sugar industries.

The study, authored by Renato Velasco, Amado Mendoza, and Philip Lustre classified giant firms National Power Corporation (Napocor) and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) as monopolies, controlling the fields of electric power and telecommunications respectively.

The study defined a monopoly as a "type of market structure in which one firm has an overwhelming share in the total assets or production output in the industry."

Using this definition as a yardstick, the government-owned Napocor cannot be considered a monopoly since it produces 96.2 percent or 6,537 megawatt-hours (MWH) of all installed power-generating capacity in the Philippines. [sentence as published]

Although former President Aquino tried to open up the electric power sector, the study said, existing government policies still continue to support Napocor's grip on the industry. These policies include: 1) the mandatory interconnection of private generating plants with the Napocor; 2) nationality requirements for operating power plants; and 3) government's non-guarantee of financing for power plants set up under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme.

Napocor's dominance in the industry has resulted in two negative effects—the massive graft and corruption in the power firm and the country's severe power shortage. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) pegged the losses caused by the ongoing outages at P [Philippine pesos] 27.3 billion for the period January 1992 to March 1993.

Local consumers also have to pay higher rates for electricity compared with other ASEAN countries.

In the telecommunications industry, the study said PLDT is the biggest player, with its exclusive franchise and its refusal to interconnect with other telecommunication firms.

The result of this market dominance is an enormous backlog of 789,259 phone lines all over the country last year for the second lowest telephone density index (TDI)—or number of phones per 100 people—among ASEAN countries, with a 1.23 TDI in 1994.

Banks

The study also said the banking sector should be labelled an oligopoly since the industry's major players are "five commercial banks whose combined assets of over P206 billion make up about 51 percent of the total assets of the entire private commercial banking system.

These top five banks are: Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI); Far East Bank and Trust Company (FEBTC); Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company (Metrobank); PCIBank; and the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB).

The study noted that "FEBTC is controlled by the Fernandez-Yulo- Gokongwei clans; BPI by the Ayalas, UCPB by the Cojuanco-Enrile- Lobregat (it is now a sequestered bank managed by appointees of the Presidential Commission on Good Government); Metrobank by a few Chinese-Filipino firms, and PCIBank by the Cuenca-Meralco group (actually, more of a Lopez-Gokongwei partnership). At least two directors of FEBTC also sit in the PCIBank board. FEBTC is interlocked with 112 companies in 37 industries; UCPB with 81 corporations in 16 industries; BPI with 68 firms in 23 industries, and PCIBank with 63 firms in 16 industries."

This oligopolistic control of the banking sector has resulted in a low deposit rate of 6 percent against the 8 percent to 10 percent inflation rate and high interest rates which range from 16 percent to 22 percent compared to Malaysia's 9 percent; Indonesia's 10 percent; Singapore's 13 percent; Taiwan's 8 percent; and Thailand's 11 percent.

Sugar

The study also cited the existence of magnates in the sugar industry which run an oligopoly through "their control of production, milling, refining, and marketing" of sugar.

The dominant bloc in the sugar industry is made up of the top seven sugar producers whose combined production comprises 38 percent of total raw sugar production; 40 percent of total milled sugar, and 70 percent of total refined sugar. These sugar firms are: Binalbagan, Don Pedro, First Farmers, Hawaiian-Philippines, La Carlota, Lopez, and Victorias.

All belong to the top 1,000 corporations in the country.

President Ramos has lately called for the breaking up of cartels and monopolies, a policy which has resulted in anti-monopoly bills now pending in Congress: House Bill No. 7011, 668, 5983 and Senate Bill No. 845.

The Department of Trade and Industry opposed all these measures, however, voicing out concern that the dismantling of efficient monopolies would send wrong signals to the business community.

Thailand

Libya To Establish Diplomatic Mission

BK2511054493 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 25 Nov 93 p 29

[Text] According to Sutham Saengprathum, the spokesman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the meeting of the committee acknowledged the outcome of the discussion between the representatives of the Libyan Government and the Thai side. In the discussion, Thailand agreed on the establishment of a Libyan diplomatic mission in Thailand to boost the level of bilateral relations. Meanwhile, Libya stated that it recently issued visas for many Thais to work there.

Libyan Envoy on Repairing Ties

BK2611015593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Nov 93 p A4

[Text] Libyan Ambassador Ahmad 'Ali Muhammad Hanesh [name as published] says prospects are good for

Bangkok and Tripoli to mend their ties marred by a row over US allegations, but admitted he could not guarantee there will not be mass lay-offs of Thai workers in Libya.

"So far there is no instruction from the Libyan government to stop issuing visas to Thais seeking jobs in Libya," he said.

But when asked to confirm that there will be no mass lay-offs, the envoy said he cannot foresee the future.

The envoy, who is based in Kuala Lumpur, said a report that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had called for the dismissal of 10,000 Thais working on a tunnel project there were based on a misunderstanding. However, he refused to clarify the Libyan leader's statement, which was carried on Libyan television.

He was speaking in Bangkok on Wednesday before returning to Malaysia after a two-day visit during which he discussed the issue with Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasathian.

It was his first visit to Thailand since he took up the post five years ago.

Hanesh said he had invited a Thai delegation to visit Tripoli to observe the work conditions and living standards of Thai workers there. The visit will also help strengthen bilateral relations.

He was told the delegation will be ready to travel some time after Dec 5.

The trip will give both countries a good opportunity to solve their conflict, which involved Libya's accusation that Thailand backed up the United States' claim that Thai workers were helping build chemical weapon plants in Libya.

The Interior Ministry has closed several job placement agencies on charges they were operating without licences. However, earlier reports were that the move was in response to US pressure to withdraw Thais working on the tunnel project, which Washington claims could be intended for the production and storage of chemical weapons. The government has denied bowing to any such pressure.

It was uncertain last night who will lead the Thai entourage—either Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri or Labour and Social Affairs Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

Hanesh has also proposed that Thailand and Libya upgrade relations by opening embassies to facilitate direct communication and avoid future misunderstandings.

He said Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu reacted positively to the proposal, but said it would take time.

Hanesh said relations between the two countries are normally good and Libya looks forward to enhanced mutual cooperation in various fields. He did not elaborate.

The United Nations Security Council this month tightened sanctions against Libya in light of Tripoli's continued refusal to hand over two men alleged to have planned the bombing of a Pan Am 747 airliner which exploded over Lockerbie in Scotland.

Editorial Praises Relations With Libya

BK2611105393 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 26 Nov 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Thai-Libyan Friendship"]

[Text] It is encouraging to learn that Thailand has managed to secure an understanding with Libya, although the two countries have not yet opened embassies on each other's territory. The Libyan ambassador to Malaysia came to Bangkok this week for talks with the deputy prime minister and high-level officials of the Foreign Ministry. The Libyan envoy reaffirmed that his country has no plan to repatriate all Thai workers as earlier reported. This is good news for the country and a great relief for the Thai people who were so concerned about the Libyan leader's recent statement on mass lay-offs of Thai workers.

The cause of the Libyan leader's indignation, which made him threaten to drive Thai workers out of the country, was the misunderstanding that the Thai Government was siding with the United States. The Thai authorities created a commotion when they took legal action against the job placement agency that sent Thai workers to Libya—as if they wanted to please the United States. Libya interpreted such a move as the manifestation of the American posture of taking sides, thus threatening to chase all Thai workers out of the country. The visit to Bangkok by the Libyan ambassador, however, indicated that Thailand has been able to clear up the misunderstanding with Libya.

The next diplomatic step Thailand must take is to send government representatives at the ministerial level for talks with the Libyan side, either to clarify Thailand's position or to open diplomatic relations with that country so that the governments of the two countries can directly resolve any problem. In addition, the Thai Government will be able to look after the Thai workers in Libya. It is not right that a country not have an embassy in a country where its citizens are working.

It would be unwise for Libya to live in isolation. Libya needs as many friends as possible, as it is getting involved in the conflict with the major powers, such as the United States and United Kingdom. The United States once sent its aircraft to bomb Libya, and now the United Kingdom is pressuring Libya to return the two terrorist suspects— believed to be responsible for the explosion of a passenger plane—for trial in the United

States or the United Kingdom. The more friends Libya has, the stronger its diplomatic strategy will be. If, however, the number of its friends declines, Libya will be fighting a losing battle in the international arena. Therefore, Libya should be glad to establish good relations with Thailand.

As for Thailand, a new member of the Nonaligned Movement, if it fails to open diplomatic relations with Libya, it does not mean that it will become the enemy of any particular country. On the contrary, it has made more friends, which will serve its national interests. As a sovereign state, Thailand can establish relations with any country in the world community under the leadership of the United Nations. If the United Nations adopts any resolution imposing sanctions against any country, the whole world must comply. This move should not cause any uneasiness to Thailand.

Government Assures U.S. on Labor Efforts

BK2511025393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Nov 93 p 11

[Text] An American lobbyist has assured Washington on behalf of the Thai Government that the State Enterprise Labour Relations Act will enter Parliament during the current session which ends December 21.

The assurance is the latest effort to help Thailand avert losing Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] privileges, possibly as soon as December 15. But it remains to be seen if MPs will push through the draft bill at each of its three readings so it can come into effect by next month, said labour sources.

The politically powerful American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO) petitioned the United States Trade Representative [USTR] on June 1 to consider withdrawing GSP privileges on Thai imports on the grounds of alleged labour rights abuses.

The USTR's Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has set a deadline of December 15 for the Thai Government to address the abuses or else lose the GSP privileges.

Labour leaders, who asked not to be named, yesterday said the US Government might consider the probable passage of the bill through the Cabinet as soon as later this month or its tabling in Parliament early next month as sufficient to spare Thailand the threatened cut.

The Washington-based lobbyists St Maxens & Co, having submitted a 26-page statement on behalf of the Thai Government on November 10, said:

"On the basis of the Government of Thailand's dedication to the protection of worker rights... the Thai Government respectfully requests that the TPSC recommend to the President that the AFL-CIO's worker rights petition against Thailand be denied."

The AFL-CIO petition concerned the dissolution of state enterprise unions by the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] in 1991, child labour abuses, NPKC Order No. 54 which bans state enterprise workers from offering either solicited or unsolicited advice to counterparts in the private sector, bans on strike activity and deficiencies in the enforcement of health and safety standards in workplaces.

The American lobbyist told the TPSC's GSP subcommittee Thailand's Labour and Social Welfare Ministry has been amending a draft bill on the State Enterprise Labour Relations Act after the Cabinet approved it on May 4 to "bring it even closer to conformity with international norms".

The lobbyist said the processing of the draft bill was expected to take 100 days at most but the Government will make every effort to introduce the bill to Parliament before December 21.

The draft bill featuring 18 amendments was retabled before the Cabinet on November 5 and is expected to be deliberated on November 30.

The amendment seeks, among other things, to allow a minimum 10 state enterprise unions to form a federation which may affiliate with the existing private labour congresses, stated St Maxens & Co.

Prominent state enterprise employee leaders have consistently declared their preference for joining either the Thai Trade Unions Congress or the Labour Congress of Thailand rather than establishing their own national-level congress.

The amendment also seeks to delete the provision targetted by the TPSC's GSP sub-committee whereby all general meetings of state enterprise workers be held on weekends or official holidays only.

Touching on the NPKC Order No. 54, St Maxens & Co stated the concerns over the council's order "reflect a fundamental misunderstanding" because the order was only meant to ensure that labour advisers were qualified. There were already 625 registered labour advisers, at least seven of whom are state enterprise workers, earlier this month.

The lobbyist said the NPKC order did not prohibit state enterprise workers from becoming labour advisers to their private counterparts.

On the question of alleged child labour abuses, the Thai Government found 21,648 child labourers at 5,410 workplaces between October last year and September this year and took legal action against 61 suspects.

Two have been sent to prison, according to the lobbyist. A total of 115 children have been sent home and 184 have been given vocational training.

The Thai Government plans to raise the minimum working age from 13 to 15 years by 1996 and to reduce the maximum number of work hours per week from 48 hours for industrial work and 54 hours for commercial work to a maximum 36 hours per week or six hours per day for all kinds of work, said the lobbyist.

Penalties for illegal child labour abuse will also be increased from a maximum of six months' imprisonment and/or a 20,000 baht fine to 12 months' imprisonment and a 200,000 baht fine, it said.

Foreign Minister on Criticism of APEC Summit

BK2611020393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Nov 93 p A4

[Text] While US President Clinton heaped praise on Prime Minister Chuan Likphai for his democratic and human rights stand, it is unfortunate that the Thai opposition thinks there was little value in his trip to Seattle for the Apec [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] summit, said Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday.

His comment followed a statement of Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet who earlier said the government's journey to the US to join the Apec summit was just "a showcase trip."

Samak claimed the praise was just a "diplomatic tradition" which did not mean anything.

The opposition leader also said Clinton agreed to meet Chuan first among Asean leaders because the US president wanted to "snub" Malaysia whose Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed boycotted the Apec meeting called by Washington.

Prasong said if the opposition had been there to witness the events, they would have perceived that US President Clinton really appreciated Chuan's contributions to the country.

"Don't get politically emotional. We should be fair enough to accept facts," Prasong said.

Praises by Clinton for Chuan have subjected the opposition to press ridicule. Cartoonists have satirized the opposition's claims that Thailand's decision to become member of the Non-Aligned Movement would seriously affect Bangkok-Washington ties.

Prasong said the Apec meeting was considered an historic conference, adding that the trip earned Thailand success in all aspects.

He also denied the existence of a rift between Chuan and Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon.

Earlier, Samak claimed that Chuan prevented Uthai from boarding a ship to Blake Island where the Apec summit took place.

Prasong said it was agreed that only the leaders and their interpreters should be allowed to be on board.

Arrests of Burmese Said Proof of 'Sincerity'

BK2511030393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] First Army Region Commander Lt Gen Chetha Thanacharo yesterday called the arrest of four Burmese with explosives a demonstration of Thailand's sincerity towards the neighbouring country.

He said he is optimistic the Burmese Government would be pleased to learn about the Thai authorities' action in foiling an alleged assassination plot against SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] leaders.

The commander said the four suspects' alleged possession of explosives might have a negative impact on bilateral relations. "We are seriously tackling the problem," he said.

He stressed that Army Commander Gen Wimon Wongwanit has ordered his men to take strict action to suppress the illegal trade in war weapons along Thailand's borders.

Burmese Allegedly SLORC Agents

BK2511032393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] The four Burmese men seized in Bangkok Tuesday along with weapons and explosives have close links with Burmese intelligence and their real targets were members of opponents of the Rangoon government, according to anti-Rangoon sources yesterday.

The four along with others have been used by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the sources said. Some are still in Bangkok while others are living along the Burmese border near Three Pagoda Pass in Sangkhlaburi District, Kanchanaburi Province.

At least five other members of the group, one of them identified as Htay Lwin, are still being hunted by authorities in connection with the arrested four, said one source.

Htay Lwin, or Ye Tint, the name used when he hijacked a Burmese Airways aircraft from Burma to Sattahip in 1989 has been in Bangkok in recent weeks contacting members of various Burmese ethnic groups to gain their support for an important job in Burma, he said.

The group also requested the use of Karen-occupied territory as a springboard for its mission, but the proposal was rejected by the Karen National Union [KNU].

A senior Mon rebel leader from Burma opposite Sangkhlaburi said yesterday he had been warned a long time ago by well-wishers to avoid any association with the four arrested men and their group as they have close ties with the Rangoon intelligence network. Some members of the group claimed they knew certain retired military leaders in Thailand.

The source said the group's aim was to create trouble in Bangkok at government buildings or international organisations so Thai authorities would think Burmese students or anti-Rangoon groups in Thailand are troublemakers.

"Just imagine, if they threw a hand grenade into the UN building, which recently cut the monthly allowances of Burmese students, or the Burmese Embassy, the other students will suffer," he said.

Other sources said the group had attempted to infiltrate the KNU headquarters in Manerplaw opposite Mae Hong Son Province and it was also possible their targets could be anti-Rangoon Karen leaders there.

The All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) yesterday issued a statement denying any connection with the four men arrested.

"Although the ABSDF has adopted a policy of armed struggle against the brutal military dictatorship in Burma it does not need to exercise that policy in any other country including Thailand," the statement said.

The ABSDF has no policy to use violent means in violation of Thai law.

"We, therefore, declare that the arrested Burmese students have no concern with the ABSDF," it said.

The student group asked in its statement that the Thai Government take appropriate action on the matter to prevent any misunderstanding between the ABSDF and democracy- and peace-loving people.

Measures To Increase GATT Power Noted

BK2511034193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Nov 93 p B2

[Text] The decision to abolish the surcharges on four farm produce categories and instead adopt the tariff system—coupled with a commitment to new surcharges on industrial products—is aimed at increasing Thailand's bargaining power in the Uruguay Round countdown.

The Uruguay Round's deadline is Dec 15 and last-minute negotiations are transpiring among the 115 member nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt). In Tokyo, Japanese sources were optimistic that talks between Washington and the European Union will set the stage for a successful conclusion to the Round.

Karun Kittisathapon, deputy permanent secretary for commerce, said Thailand was the only country to impose "duties and surcharges" in addition to the normal tariff system after the Gatt members exchanged the final products list subject to tariff cuts on Nov 15 in Geneva.

Bangkok has also come under attack for retaining surcharges for wheat, fishmeal (Bt [baht] 2,200 per tonne), soybean meal (Bt925 per tonne) and maize (Bt380 per tonne). These wil have to be immediately conveyed into tariffs if the Uruguay Round is to be concluded.

Thailand is expected to use the maximum tariff rate as a base plus the normal six per cent tariff levied against farm produce for animal feed production during the initial grace period before reducing the rates to meet Gatt rules.

It can keep the surcharges on steel and automobiles but cannot add more categories to the list. That will mean eradicating surcharges levied through Board of Investment regulations.

Karun said the surcharges have become a political tool used by lobbying groups, however the tariff system will lead to universal acceptance and liberalization.

Previously Thai officials said, Bangkok had called for surcharges on all agricultural products to about 50 per cent of normal tariffs. This was designed as a protective measure because of the uncertainty of the Gatt round. However the Gatt already allows temporary safeguards against imports which can injure local industries.

With the abolition of the surcharge on soybean meal, the United States, the world's largest soybean producer, is expected to be the biggest beneficiary.

The Thai Cabinet, on Tuesday, passed a resolution on abolishing surcharges on farm produce and also decided not to add more industrial goods surcharges. The Thai delegation can use this as a mandate at the Gatt talks.

The new Gatt round calls for a 33 per cent reduction on industrial product tariffs from existing rates within five years. Also, domestic farm produce subsidies must be reduced by 24 per cent within 10 years.

Karun said Thailand is seeking a 10 year waiver from Gatt on having to grant Most Favoured Nation Status to other countries except for the United States which has a Treaty of Amity with Thailand. This is to allow Bangkok time to study the impact on various sectors and to review the special treaty with Washington.

Karun said Thailand should not receive special treatment but rather be treated equally. However it is unfair for Thailand to open up freely to other countries without getting anything in exchange, he added.

Gatt Secretary General Peter Sutherland is calling a meeting of all 115 member countries every two weeks, and is have a meeting of senior officials on Nov 29.

Thailand at the recent meeting of the Asia Pacific and Economic Cooperation (Apec) announced a plan for a market access programme along with its 14 comember countries. The so called Quad countries including the United States, Japan and the European Union have agreed on a market access programme for industrial goods.

Japan Denies Plans To Open Rice Market

BK2611021193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Nov 93 p B1

[Text] A Bangkok-based Japanese government official has denied that Japan is planning to open its rice market by allowing imports of up to 6 per cent of domestic consumption as widely speculated in local rice markets over the past few weeks.

Local speculation is understood to stem from a recent meeting between a European Community trade commissioner, Leon Brittan, and senior Japanese government officials on the issue of rice imports. Thai trading sources said they believed Japan will 'most likely' open its market with minimum access and the sort of tariffication measures contained in the final draft of the Gatt agreement.

"It's all rumour. Rice imports are a delicate matter. The government is very careful on this matter. Minimum access and tariffication are part of the Gatt package which Japan will (accept) to help make the current Round a success. But there has been no official decision so far," the Japanese government source said.

Local traders, who are bullish on exports to the lucrative Japanese market, believe that Japan could buy 600,000-700,000 tonnes of rice annually on a permanent basis, not just for emergency purpose as is the case at the moment.

"A 'minimum access' of 3-6 per cent of domestic consumption will minimize any impact of imports on Japanese rice producers, who have strongly opposed allowing imports. If imports exceed 600,000 tonnes, the surplus will be subject to about 400 per cent import duties," said one Thai trading source, referring to the Gatt package and the 'unofficial' deal between Japanese and United States officials.

Meanwhile, Japan plans to import 80,000 tonnes of Thai rice between January and March next year, expecting to buy a total of 900,000 tonnes of rice from abroad for staple consumption throughout 1994. Imports from Thailand will be relatively small because Thai growers are not competitive in the kind of short-grain rice consumed as staple food by the Japanese. The United States and Australia will be major suppliers.

Earlier this year, Japan placed an order for 133,000 tonnes of Thai rice to be used mainly by food processors. The deal included 100,000 tonnes of white rice at US$273 a tonne. Trading sources reported Japan has placed a second order for 50,000 tonnes at US$380 and another for 80,000 tonnes (including 70,000 tonnes of 100 per cent rice and 10,000 tonnes of sticky rice at US$420 and US$450, respectively). The last order has to be delivered from November to March next year.

Exporters may face losses, due to the market price difference between old and new orders, a source said.

Vietnam

U.S. General Hails Cooperation in MIA Search

BK2611110893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Americans hunting for traces of U.S. servicemen killed in the Vietnam war found human remains and wreckage of an American plane that will help them pinpoint how (colleagues) died. But there was no sign when President Bill Clinton would judge progress in operation to account for the U.S. missing in actions has been sufficient to warrant fresh steps to improve U.S. relations with Vietnam.

Lieutenant Colonel (John Grey), commander of the U.S. Military Detachment in Hanoi said: Vietnamese cooperation during the latest 27-day search in a record 19 provinces, which ended last week, has been excellent.

Lao Finance Minister Meets Counterpart 24 Nov

BK2411150793 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 24—Talks were held here today between Vietnamese finance minister Mr Ho Te and his Lao counterpart, Mr. Khamsai Souphanouvong.

The Lao minister arrived here yesterday for a five-day official visit to Vietnam.

The two ministers exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and financial activities in their countries and discussed measures to help each other in the renewal process in the two countries.

Minister Ho Te informed his guests of Vietnam's budget in the 1991-1993 period, and issues relating to the state treasury, taxation, especially import-export taxes, debt, and plans to streamline the state financial institutional system.

Received by Vo Van Kiet

BK2511143593 Hanoi VNA in English 1416 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 25—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here today Lao Finance Minister Khamsai Souphanouvong and his party now on a working visit to Vietnam.

Also present at the reception were Minister of Finance Ho Te and Lao Ambassador to Vietnam Khamphet Phengmeuang.

During the reception, Minister Khamsai Souphavouvong informed Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet of the results of his talks with Finance Minister Ho Te. He expressed his pleasure at Vietnam's economic growth and highly appreciated Vietnam's achievements in financial and monetary activities.

Speaking to the Lao guests, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet highly appreciated the results of cooperation and mutual assistance between the two financial branches and affirmed that Vietnam has done and would do its best to develop the special friendship and multi-sided cooperation with Laos.

Party Ideology Commission Delegation Visits Laos

BK2511064993 Hanoi VNA in English 0635 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 25—A delegation of the party Commission for Ideology and Culture led by Mr Ha Dang, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and head of the commission paid a working visit to Laos from Nov. 16-23.

The delegation was received by Mr Khamtai Siphandone, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee and prime minister.

It held talks with a delegation of the LPRP Commission for Information and Training led by Mr Osacane Thammatheva, member of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the commission.

The delegation also visited Champassak and Saravan Provinces where it had sessons with local party and state officialdom.

Assembly Standing Committee Issues Communique

BK2511115593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Nov 93

[Communique of the National Assembly Standing Committee; date not given]

[Text] The National Assembly Standing Committee [NASC] met from 9-22 November under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh. Vice President of the State Nguyen Thi Binh attended the meeting.

1. After examining the all-round preparations for the Ninth National Assembly's fourth session, the NASC decided to convene the National Assembly's fourth session, starting on 6 December 1993.

At this session, it is anticipated that the National Assembly will examine a government report on the implementation of the 1993 tasks, the orientations for the 1994 tasks, the situation regarding the 1993 state budget revenue, expenditure, and distribution, the 1994 state budget estimate, the 1992 state budget final balance, and other supplementary reports on the situation regarding the application of the new wage system, anticorruption and antismuggling activites, foreign relations, national security and defense activites, and on the situation regarding socioeconomic development in the mountain regions and areas inhabited by ethnic minority groups.

As for the law-building task, the National Assembly is expected to be presented with the following draft laws for passage: environmental protection, business bankruptcy, the law amending and supplementing a number of articles in the law on the organization of people's courts, and the 1994 law-building program.

The National Assembly will also examine various activity reports of the state president, the NASC, the Supreme People's Court, and the Supreme People's Organ of Control, and will decide on some other important issues.

The NASC looked into a number of substantive points of the planned agenda and it also urged the government and its responsible organs to continue to supplement and perfect various reports and draft laws to be presented to the National Assembly.

2. The NASC heard a report on efforts to overcome the aftermath of flashfloods in various central and central highland provinces in October 1993. It expressed profound sympathy for the compatriots in those areas hard hit by the flashfloods and praised them for their persistent determination to overcome the national calamities. At the same time, it hailed the concentrated and effective guidance of the government, the harmonious deployment of the activities of various sectors, and the assistance given by various localities, and by the compatriots and combatants nationwide, saying that they have provided timely assistance to those provinces hit by natural calamities so the latter can promptly restore their production and stabilize their people's lives.

3. The NASC heard Comrade Dang Quan Thuy, vice chairman of the National Assembly and head of the National Assembly's National Defense and Security Committee; and Comrade Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly, give briefings on the results of the inspection trips conducted by the two NASC teams led by the aforementioned vice chairmen to a number of localities, establishments, and sectors as part of its efforts to excercise the National Assembly's supreme supervision over the carying out of socioeconomic development in conjunction with national defense and security activities and over the situation regarding law enforcement in the fight against corruption and smuggling.

The NASC analyzed and evaluated the actual state and the reasons for shortcomings in the exercise of responsibility by various responsible organs and cadres. It put forth some specific measures to step up the struggle against corruption and smuggling.

The NASC asked the government and responsible ministries and sectors to urgently tackle those suggestions made by the two inspection teams and to promptly brief it on how this issue has been resolved.

4. The NASC heard a report on the situation and measures taken to resolve complaints and denunciations by citizens during the third quarter of 1993.

The NASC asked various echelons and sectors to be in regular contact with the people and to promptly study and tackle the pressing issues raised in the people's complaints. They must be determined to address irregularities committed by the administration and responsible organs in order to ensure citizens' legitimate rights.

It is suggested that the government periodically report to the NASC on the results of efforts to tackle citizens' complaints and denunciations in order to enforce the law, strengthen democratic principles, and consolidate the confidence of the masses in the party, the National Assembly, the government, and various state organs at the central and local levels.

5. The NASC discussed the implementation of democratic rights and protection of human rights in our country. After affirming that our regime has brought about the rights to freedom, democracy, and creativeness, the NASC noted that it is necessary to continue to perfect the judicial system in order to substantiate those citizens' fundamental rights already stipulated in the Constitution and to strengthen the supervision over the implementation of these legal documents.

The NASC requests that various echelons and sectors to provide the best care for people of all strata. They should strictly deal with actions violating the citizens' rights and benefits. At the same time, they must fight against accusations voiced by hostile forces to negate our revolutionary achievements and distort our national renovation undertaking.

6. The NASC listened to a report presented by the government representative on three draft bills: regulations on SRV representative organs in foreign countries, regulations on marriage between Vietnamese citizens and foreigners, and regulations on the recognition and execution in Vietnam of decisions reached by arbitrators of foreign countries. It also listened to an investigative report of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee on these draft bills. The NASC then offered its opinions and entrusted the compilation committees, Foreign Affairs Committee, and Legislative Committee of the National Assembly to amend the draft bills before presenting them again to the NASC for approval.

7. The NASC heard a report on the 9-30 October visit to five European countries—the Republic of Finland, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland—by our National Assembly delegation led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh. It highly values the result of the visit for its contribution to strengthening friendship relations, mutual undertakings, and multifaceted cooperation between our nation and those countries and between our National Assembly and their parliaments in the areas of peace, independence, and development.

8. The NASC listened to a report on the official friendship visit to Vietnam by the National Assembly delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] on 8-14 November 1993. The visiting delegation was led by Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, member of the Central Committee Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the LPDR National Assembly. The NASC heartily welcomes the fine results of the visit. The visit marked a new developing step to further strengthen the special relation of friendship, unity, and cooperation between the two parties, national assemblies, and peoples of Vietnam and Lao; to meet the fundamental and long-term benefits of the people in each country; and to contribute to peace, stability, cooperation, and development in Southeast Asia.

Do Muoi Addresses Students Congress 22 Nov

BK2411131393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Dear friends: Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi attended and addressed the Fifth National Congress of the Vietnam Students Association this morning.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, the comrade general secretary warmly welcomed the outstanding delegates of the Vietnamese students to this congress. He extended his heartfelt regards to all the students of various universities and colleges throughout the country.

The comrade general secretary praised them, saying: Our country's students have been led by the party over the past half century or more and they have always been a force noted for its enthusiastic participation in various revolutionary movements. They waged a decisive and prolonged war for national independence and freedom and helped to build and defend the fatherland together with the working class, the peasantry, the intelligentsia, and compatriots nationwide.

Many students have set bright examples for posterity to follow. Others have matured and become prestigious scientists, exemplary teachers and physicians, talented writers and artists, and excellent managers, producers, and businessmen. The majority of them have taken up heavy functions in various party and state organs and mass organizations at various echelons and in various sectors.

The comrade general secretary warmly praised the many outstanding achievements scored by students in our country in their scholastic and training activities. He cited those efforts and initial achievements scored by the Vietnam Students Association and by the national students movement in the past.

After recalling Uncle Ho's teachings in his letter to students nationwide on the occasion of the first school opening day after Vietnam became independent, the general secretary said: Whether or not the Vietnamese people can be glorified and whether or not the Vietnamese nation can gloriously stand shoulder to shoulder with other powers on the five continents will depend chiefly on students' scholastic efforts.

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi also mentioned the present tasks of Vietnamese youths in general and of students in particular. He said:

Today, our party affirms that the current young generation, of which students are a component with a role of paramount importance, will be the deciding factor of whether or not the causes of national renovation and socialist construction can be successful and whether or not our country can have a worthy position in the world community as we enter the 21st century. This is a serious question posed by the country to you, friends. This is also an important mandate entrusted to you by the people. From among those students with a working impetus, many great talents will emerge in various domains—ranging from natural, technical, and social sciences to culture, art, and economic management. A number of you will become national leaders and managers. This is the beauty of life. This is also a duty that you, friends, have to shoulder. It is very glorious yet very heavy.

In order to fulfill this duty, right from those years and months while you are still at school, you should overcome all obstacles and should strive to study and undergo training so as to satisfactorily prepare yourselves for entering life. You should strive to become rich in terms of wisdom, astute educationally, strong physically, pure ethically, copious spritually, and wholesome in terms of lifestyle. You should be prepared to succeed your forefathers' generation. You should devote yourselves to the country and the people for the sake of the suvival and development of our nation.

As youths, you should nurture great ambitions. Today, your ideals and ambitions should be your patriotism, your national pride, your sense of self reliance, and your aspirations to surge forward to bring the country out of backwardness and poverty forever. This will also lead to a prosperous and powerful country and an equal and civilized society. Your efforts will build socialism sucessfully step-by-step, and make our country more prosperous and beautiful in the advance toward the next century as cherished by Uncle Ho.

To transform your ideals and ambitions into realities, you should be thoroughly aware of the national situation and revolutionary tasks. You should build up your confidence, ascertain your duties, and be exemplary, diligent, and studious. You should improve your knowledge, link your school work with your practical activities, link theory with practice, improve your abilities and ethics, build your own lives, place the interests of your future under the interests of our country's future, participate in social activities, blend yourselves with the people's lives, and become intellectuals of the new system.

Be persistent and industrious in your studies, which should be aimed at mastering your profession with comprehensive and in-depth knowledge. At the same time, be creative in applying effectively your knowledge in realities of production, work, and daily life. Increase your contributions to national construction with scientific research that enriches the knowledge of the science you specialize in. And this should be a direction for the careers of all youths, students, and intellectuals, for it is also the hope that the party, state, and people entrust in today's young people and students. I wish that you will fulfill these aspirations.

All levels and sectors of the party and state and mass organizations, including the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Federation and the Students Association, should set up policies to care for the education, training, and living conditions of students as well as create conditions for them to study well.

Recognizing the importance of the development of future generations, the Seventh Party Central Committee's fourth plenum issued resolutions on education and training, and on youth work which determined the role and status of education and training as both a motive and a capital condition that ensures socioeconomic development as well as national construction and protection.

The Students Association, together with the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Federation, at all levels must coordinate closely with other relevant sectors and schools to improve the effectiveness of their activities among students. By attaching creativity, quality, and vivacity to their regular activities, the youth organizations will be able to motivate and encourage students to realize their valuable aspirations and ideals as well as their practical needs. The association's activities should be in accordance with the training objectives of the schools, which are to equip each student with good character, personality, citizen responsibility, law-abiding attitude, self-motivated determination, good humanity, and healthy habits. Young students should be creative as well as wishing to update their knowledge regularly with the latest world achievements in culture, science, technology, and management. The students should also have a profound understanding of our country, our people's characteristics, and they should be healthy and capable of contributing effectively to the national construction and protection.

For short term objectives, the association branches at the grass-roots level should use the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Federation as a base to coordinate with schools through the guidance of party organizations in those schools, to quickly tackle the impropriety of conceptions in the lifestyles of a number of students, carry out successfully all activities, take good care of students in both academic and daily life, and in their literature and art, physical, and recreational activities. The association should have measures to foster young talents and to widen the emulation campaign among students to obtain higher professional knowledge in modern sciences and foreign languages. Teachers and senior generations should always motivate students to develop their abilities to study and research. Party members in schools should strive to become good citizens who strictly observe state laws and school regulations. They should be the vanguard in campaigns against depraved culture, superstition, corruption, smuggling, narcotics, and other criminal acts.

Party organizations and state agencies, particularly those in schools, need to continually improve their leadership tasks and firmly grab hold of the school situation in all aspects. This way they can resolve quickly all problems of teachers and students. They should also create favorable conditions for the activities of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Federation and the Students Association, which are based in their schools.

Decision on Rural Economy, Agriculture Survey

BK2411141193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Nov 93

[Text] On 19 November, the government issued a decision on a general survey of agricultural development and the rural economy on a nationwide scale at the end of 1994. This is aimed at collecting fundamental information to serve the socioeconomic development strategy and to formulate the 1996-2000 five-year development plan.

The survey will cover the following areas:

A. Basic situations of households and individuals in rural areas.

B. Infrastructure of villages, hamlets, and wards.

C. Income targets of and housing projects for households in the rural area.

D. Economic structure, agriculture, industry, and services in the rural area.

The general survey will be conducted from the third quarter of 1994 and results will be announced in late 1995.

The Director of the General Statistics Department is charged with the task of coordinating with the sectors concerned to formulate and perfect plans for the survey. The minister of finance is instructed to settle expenditures required by the survey.

This decision is effective from the day of signing. Ministers, chiefs of agencies at ministerial level, chiefs of government organizations, chairmen of people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government are dutybound to implement this decision.

Australia

Keating Says APEC Exports To Create Jobs

BK2511073693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister, Paul Keating, says Australia's increasing exports to other members of the Asia Pacific Economic group, APEC, will create more than 70,000 jobs over the next two years. Speaking in Melbourne while opening the largest trade conference ever held in Australia, Mr. Keating also stressed the need for world trade agreement. The prime minister said it was disappointing the latest round of talks between the United States and Europe aimed at resolving outstanding issues in the way of a GATT deal has failed. But, Mr. Keating says the APEC leaders meeting, which he attended in Seattle last weekend, and the U.S. congressional vote to approve the North American Free Trade Agreement creates a better climate for a conclusion to the GATT round. The world trade talks must be concluded by December the 15th.

Government Views Malaysia's Remarks on Keating

BK2511070893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] The Australian Government is saying little about the latest reaction from Malaysia in a new round of tensions sparked by Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating. Mr Keating last weekend called Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir recalcitrant for not attending the APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] leaders summit in Seattle. Linda Mottram reports a critical response from Dr. Mahathir had been followed by new demands from the youth wing of Malaysia's ruling party.

[Begin Mottram recording] Australian Prime Minister Keating is being briefed on Malaysia's response from the ruling United Malay Nationals Organization's [UMNO] youth wing, which has demanded an apology from Mr. Keating in seven days or economic sanctions against Australia. A spokesperson for Australia's foreign affairs minister, Gareth Evans, has no comment from Prime Minister Keating's office that appears to be little concerned with the spokesman highlighting the fact that the latest comments are from UMNO youth, implying they don't necessarily carry the same weight as if Dr. Mahathir had made the remarks. There's also some Australian Government criticism of some Australian newspaper coverage that did not gave prominence to UMNO youth as the source of the demands. The Australian opposition has said little about the rift but the conservative premier of the state of Victoria has branded Mr. Keating's comments intemperate and unnecessary expressing hope that the issue can be resolved. [end recording]

Evans De-emphasizes 'Rift'

BK2511101893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Text] Canberra, Nov 25 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans attempted Thursday to play down a political rift with Malaysia following its failure to attend the APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] leaders conference in Seattle, United States.

In Seattle for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit on Monday, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating called Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad "a recalcitrant" for not attending. "I couldn't care less, frankly, whether he comes or not," Keating told reporters.

Mahathir said Wednesday he regretted Keating's remarks, adding that Australia's claim to be part of Asia was meaningless because "Australians do not have the values of respect and manners that Asians do."

Also on Wednesday, an official of Malaysia's leading political party, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), threatened to press for a downgrading of links with Australia if Keating did not apologise for the comments.

Evans told parliament here Thursday that Australia's relationship with Malaysia was important and produced major benefits for both sides. "Both our leaders have a habit of expressing themselves from time to time in rather forthright terms but I believe our bilateral relationship is capable of withstanding such exchanges," he said.

Malaysia is Australia's 13th largest trading partner, with two-way trade reaching 2.3 billion dollars (1.5 billion U.S.) in 1992-93 from 1.7 billion two years earlier.

Asked how Keating's comments would help Australian businesses develop economic links with Malaysia, Evans said said it was important that the issue be kept in proportion and the government proposed to keep it that way.